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PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL STATEMENT CALLS FOR UNITY

JN232041Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1815 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

["Text" of statement issued in Damascus on 23 August by PLO Central Council]

[Text] The PLO Central Council met in Damascus on 22 August 1978 under brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PLO National Council, and in the presence of brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and the brother members of the Executive Committee.

The council discussed the issue of national unity and the latest political developments concerning the Palestine question, particularly the Camp David meeting and the campaign of armed terrorism launched by the organs of the Iraqi regime against the PLO and its leading cadres.

1. National unity: The PLO Central Council has followed the meetings and constructive dialog between the Palestinian revolution groups to achieve national unity. The council expresses its deep satisfaction with the positive spirit and serious unionist course which prevailed in the meetings. The council stresses the need to continue the dialog in order to attain specific results as soon as possible and to organize the relations between the revolution groups and the struggling forces of the Palestinian people within the framework of the PLO. The council stresses the need to retain the positive spirit which prevailed at the meetings, to adhere to objectivity in the exchange of views and to refrain from information campaigns and mutual accusations that harm national unity.

In order to achieve national unity as soon as possible, the Central Council decided to form a committee from the PLO Executive Committee and representatives of the revolution groups at the highest level, and from members of the Central Council, to continue the dialog on national unity [words indistinct] to reach specific formulas. The Central Council will be called to meet in the third week of September to endorse any resolutions concerning national unity.

2. Political developments and the Camp David meeting: The Central Council discussed the current political developments connected with the Palestine issue, particularly the Camp David meeting. The council believes that this meeting is another step on the road which President as-Sadat is following of making concessions in the interest of U.S. imperialism-Zionist plotting against the Palestinian people's cause in particular and the Arab liberation cause in general. The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, rejects this meeting and all related plans which might result in self-rule, tripartite administration or revival of the Jordanian role. The council asserts that neither As-Sadat nor any other Arab ruler has the right to claim that he represents the Palestinian people, or to speak on their behalf, or to attempt to dispense with their inalienable national rights to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to establish their national independent state under the PLO in Palestine without conditions.

The Central Council takes note of intensified U.S.-Israeli-isolationist plotting in Lebanon against the unity of Lebanon, its people and its nationalist forces, aimed at striking at Syria and the Palestinian revolution. The council considers this plotting part of the conspiracy concocted against our area in order to impose U.S. capitulatory solutions. The council stresses the PLO's determination to confront all dimensions of this plot in Lebanon through a commitment to honor the agreements concluded with the legitimate Lebanese authority and to strengthen the relations of struggle with the Lebanese progressive and nationalist forces and with Syria.

The PLO stresses to all plotters against the Palestinian people and their revolution that their plots against the PLO, and against the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights, will not succeed. All the forces of our people and all the forces of the progressive nationalist forces in the Arab world and in friendly countries will confront these plots.

3. The Central Council discussed the campaigns of plotting and armed terrorism launched by the organs of the Iraqi regime against the PLO and the revolution's cadres, whose victims are our heroic martyrs Sa'id Hammami, 'Ali Yasin, 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq and 'Adnan Hammad and the three martyrs in the PLO office in Islamabad.

The Central Council was surprised that the crimes of an Arab regime would reach this point. It condemns this form of cowardly plotting and holds the Iraqi regime responsible at the pan-Arab and historical levels. The council calls for stopping these criminal campaigns against the Palestinian revolution. The council urges the Arab masses, including our Arab masses in Iraq, to condemn these methods and to take firm action against them in order to safeguard the Palestinian people and their armed revolution.

In accordance with its national charter and bylaws, and proceeding from its concern to pool all resources of the Arab struggle, for the front of the Zionist enemy and [words indistinct] the PLO has constantly worked to avoid diversionary battles which drain its resources. The PLO calls on everyone to adhere to this stand.

The PLO has been concerned to settle differences with any Arab country through dialog [words indistinct], mutual respect and commitment to the PLO's role in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. The PLO declares its adherence to this principle and calls on everyone to adhere to it. The PLO stresses its determination [words indistinct] against all forms of plots, whatever the source, with all means available for self-defense.

The PLO realizes the gravity of this stage that the Palestinian issue and the Arab struggle are passing through. It stressed the importance of (consolidating) the PLO's internal front and strengthening national unity among all the revolution groups within the framework of the PLO.

The PLO stresses the prominent and important role played by our masses in the occupied homeland in confronting the occupation plots. The PLO hails this courageous struggle, and calls on our masses inside Palestine to double their caution and to resist all forms of plotting by the enemies of our people under various methods and names.

The Central Council stresses the importance of strengthening the struggle relations with Syria in all fields in order to jointly confront capitulatory solutions which the enemies want to impose on our Arab nation.

The council stresses the importance of strengthening the front of steadfastness and confrontation, and calls on the countries of this front to take measures to increase its effectiveness in confronting the current imperialist-Zionist conspiracy.

The council stresses the firm and constant stand the PLO has taken to strengthen relations with the socialist countries, primarily the Soviet Union, and with the nonaligned states and all friendly countries in order to strengthen the PLO and the forces of Arab liberation so as to confront and foil imperialist-Zionist schemes.

Glory and immortality to our pure martyrs. Revolution until victory.

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS WITH PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION GROUPS

JN231925Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT
23 Aug 78 JN

[Text] For the past week the commands of Palestinian revolution groups have been meeting with the Fatah movement Central Committee.

A delegation of the Fatah Central Committee yesterday held important meetings with a delegation representing the popular struggle front. During the meeting they discussed in detail the mistakes and negative aspects of the past stage. The two sides agreed that the popular struggle front will participate in the meetings of the PLO Central Council.

The second important meeting was held between a delegation representing the Palestine Liberation Front and the Fatah delegation. The two sides discussed the development of bilateral relations and the need to strengthen them for the sake of the Palestinian cause. At the end of the meeting they agreed that the Palestine Liberation Front will participate in the meetings of the PLO Central Council.

The Fatah Central Committee began this series of meetings last week with a meeting with the delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. A joint statement issued at the end of the meeting stressed two basic points: first, democratic dialog among the Palestinians and, second, acting through the PLO framework.

Another meeting was held, this time between the Fatah Central Committee delegation and the delegation of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP]. During the 4-hour meeting the two sides reviewed relations between Fatah and the DPFLP and the negative aspects of the previous stage. They discussed the causes of these negative aspects and measures to avoid them in the future. They reaffirmed the need to adhere to the PLO political program, and agreed to continue meetings between Fatah and the DPFLP.

The Fatah Central Committee is scheduled to hold several meetings with the other commands of the Palestine revolution in order to strengthen and safeguard the Palestinian stand from plots aimed at torpedoing the Palestinian cause.

FATAH SPLINTER GROUP CALLS FOR HALT TO REPRISALS

JK232016Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Several meetings have been held between a delegation of the Palestine national liberation movement--Fatah-the Revolutionary Council--under brother Abu Nidal, member of the Revolutionary Council, and Algerian Ambassador to Lebanon Mohamed Yazid. During the meetings they discussed the situation and recent developments in the Palestinian arena. A responsible source of the Revolutionary Council has made the following statement:

On 21 and 22 August 1978, several meetings took place between brother Mohamed Yazid, Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, and a delegation of the Palestine national liberation movement--Fatah-the Revolutionary Council--under brother Abu Nidal. The talks dealt with the situation in the Palestinian arena, particularly the recent developments.

Proceeding from the principles of our movement and its constant stands and eagerness to continue the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, and in order to block the reactionary forces whose aim is to drag the Palestinians into fratricide in order to realize the designs of the settlement, and out of commitment to the dialog with brother Mohamed Yazid, the Palestine national liberation movement--Fatah--the Revolutionary Council--emphasizes its stand on measures to avoid the danger of fratricide in the Palestinian arena, including refraining from carrying out any reprisals provided the other side does the same.

Our movement has always been committed to the principle of democratic dialog as a necessary method for resolving the secondary contradictions within the revolution's forces. This commitment has never clashed with the need to continue the democratic struggle.

Several other issues were discussed. Brother Mohamed Yazid was entrusted with following up on these issues, which will contribute to national unity and reinforce the patriotic democratic line.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN DETAILS 22 AUGUST TEL AVIV OPERATION

JN231702Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT
23 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Palestinian fighters were able to kill or wound at least seven enemies and destroy or damage three police vehicles as well as destroy a department store when a highly explosive timed charge placed by our fighters near [words indistinct] established by the enemy in the Carmel market in Tel Aviv. The Palestinian military spokesman announced this in the following statement he made today:

One of our special groups placed highly explosive timed charges yesterday, 22 August, in [words indistinct] near a checkpoint established by the enemy in the Carmel market of Tel Aviv. Our fighters have mounted several operations against this market in the last few days, inflicting heavy losses in enemy life and property. One of the charges exploded at 2330 last night, resulting in the following:

1. Killing or wounding no less than seven enemies;
2. Destroying or damaging three police vehicles parked at the checkpoint. All three vehicles caught fire;
3. Destroying a department store in the market near the operation site.

Despite these losses, the enemy police forces summoned to the scene did not dare enter the market until a team of Zionist explosive experts had combed it for other explosive charges. The combing last 2 hours. As a result of the operation, the Palestinian citizens in Tel Aviv were the target of a campaign of arrests which included several persons who had nothing to do with the operation. Their houses in the area were stormed and searched under the pretext of searching for weapons.

The group returned safely to base.

SAUDI ARABIA

MORE ON FAHD REMARKS ON CAMP DAVID, ARAB SUMMIT, OIL PRICE

LD232020Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said that the tripartite Camp David meeting will be decisive, either negatively or positively. The prince said that it was now up to the United States to be firm and decisive. He went on: "We as Arabs have no more to give. The Arabs have given much and have been flexible to the maximum. The time has now come for the other side to give."

In his statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH published today, the prince explained that the kingdom supported the Camp David meeting in order to propel the wave of optimism toward the shore of hope. "When we supported this, there were signs that the summit would be a decisive and final meeting. Either the question is resolved in the interest of peace or this door is finally closed."

Regarding the holding of an Arab summit, Prince Fahd said: "We in the Arab world are experiencing fragmentation at a time when we need understanding and real and effective accord." He added that the holding of an Arab summit in itself is not the objective. But it needs to be preceded by real, comprehensive coordination so that all parties come to the conference with peace of mind and assured as to an anticipated agreement. If the summit is to be hurried, each of the parties concerned would come with its own point of view and enthusiasm but the result would be nil. We want and seek a summit because we need it very much, but this requires adequate preparations."

Regarding the replacement of the dollar by the proposed basket of currencies for oil pricing, Prince Fahd said: "We have rejected the proposal to replace the dollar. It is unacceptable." He added that the question of a basket of currencies was a complicated one and needed long and very detailed study. "We are not now interested in accepting this proposal."

He stressed that by the end of this year the dollar would recover its previous position. He said that the dollar was the most important, greatest and strongest currency in international investments. "Furthermore, if we accepted the basket of currencies, the returns on our dollar investments would suffer. We want to avoid this as our state has the highest oil production. Also, we do not want any other state to suffer as a result. The crown prince said that a proposal of such importance meant that decisions on it should be considered thoroughly. It is too important for improvised decisions."

Concerning raising oil prices, Prince Fahd said: "When we contemplate raising prices we do not do this with pleasure, but against our will. This should be understood by the Western states." He said: "When we raised prices in the past the aim was to match oil prices with those of manufactured and consumer goods which had earlier reached a terrifyingly high level." He said that as long as world consumer goods maintain their level without being affected by inflation, we do not contemplate raising oil prices. Raising oil prices could only take place if there were abnormal conditions."

Regarding the situation in Iran, he said: "We do not interfere in the internal affairs of any country, but Iran is important to the whole region and so is its stability, and this is what we want to see."

Concerning checking local expenditure, Prince Fahd said that it would be in the interest of the national economy that the government pursue a policy of retrenchment to deal with the rising rate of inflation. The crown prince said that in past years government expenditure had been very high, resulting in a higher rate of inflation--28 percent. Now it has gone down to 7 percent. In the past we initiated projects all at once, but now we embark on important projects gradually. In all cases the Saudi national financial position, whether of the state or individuals, is growing in strength. He explained that the curbing of expenditure would continue as long as it was necessary and until everything has returned to normal.

SHAYKH YAMANI ON OIL PRICE, PRODUCTION CAPACITY

LD231232Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 21 Aug 78 p 7 LD

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, has warned that a sharp rise in oil prices will shake the world's economy in the eighties if prices are not increased gradually.

In a statement to the Saudi paper AL-MADINAH published yesterday, Yamani said that in the future the problem will not be the price of oil, but rather "whether or not we will have crude oil." Companies operating in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, he added, are well aware of the government's decision to change the average of light oil production and to continue to reduce Saudi production of light oil until it reaches the correct level of production in relation to heavy oil.

The Saudi minister noted that there is a surplus of light oil on the world market as a result of North Sea production of such oil and said that OPEC members such as Algeria, Libya and Nigeria are suffering from this surplus because they are unable to find markets for their oil production.

Shaykh Yamani warned that the world's known reserves of light oil are limited and are being exhausted rapidly. He said that all future energy substitutes such as coal and nuclear power will replace heavy oil, a development that would increase the demand for light oil at a time when the world's reserves of such oil will have begun to be exhausted.

Regarding the drop in the value of the U.S. dollar, Shaykh Yamani refused the suggestion that such drop was the result of OPEC's declaration that it wishes to use a "basket of currencies" to calculate the prices of its oil. He said that despite the psychological impact such a declaration might have and which might have led to currency speculations, this had only a temporary effect. The drop, he added, could also be, as some have claimed, a political move by the United States in its economic battle with Japan and West Germany and a means to force Japan to reduce its trade surplus.

The Saudi minister described the economic situation in some OPEC member states as "painful," especially in those countries which obtained loans to finance development projects. He said that countries such as Indonesia are forced to pay more of the cheap petrodollars in order to obtain expensive Japanese goods.

Shaykh Yamani denied a recent report by the CIA that Saudi Arabia can produce 19 to 23 million barrels of oil daily. He said he does not think that the kingdom will produce 19 to 23 million barrels daily at any time in the future. There is a big question mark hanging over the CIA report, which is full of exaggerations, he added.

However, the Saudi minister pointed out that his country could possibly increase its oil production by 1 million barrels daily over its present average production of 8.5 million barrels daily.

According to official Saudi reports, the kingdom's average oil production is about 8 million barrels daily, while the figures of last June showed a drop in production to 6.92 million barrels daily.

UAE

CABINET DISCUSSES RIYAD VISIT, MEDICAL AID TO LEBANON

JN221007Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 August--The UAE Council of Ministers held its weekly session last night under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Maktum ibn Rashid al-Maktum, the prime minister. During the meeting, the council reviewed the current situation in the Arab homeland and the efforts that are being exerted by the Arab Solidarity Committee to mend the Arab rift and restore Arab solidarity.

UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi briefed the council on the outcome of the visit of Arab League Secretary General Riyad to the UAE and his talks with Foreign Ministry officials regarding the efforts to restore Arab solidarity, the situation in the Arab arena and the topics which will be discussed at the proposed Arab League meeting in Khartoum.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abdallah Rashid briefed the council on the outcome of the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference which was held in Belgrade during June. Rashid discussed the importance of the resolutions the conference adopted concerning the Arab cause. He said that the resolutions include two significant points: the first affirms that the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East depends on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories; and the second stresses the need to restore the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their future and set up their independent state.

The council also approved the report submitted by the health minister requesting urgent medical aid to the Arab people in Lebanon.

YEMEN--PDY

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER RETURNS FROM VISITS ABROAD

LD200318Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Communications Minister Mahumud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh returned to Aden today after visits to India, Afghanistan and Pakistan, during which he delivered messages from Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to the heads of state of those countries. The minister said that the visits were fruitful and useful.

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E G Y P T

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AS-SADAT REPORTEDLY TO TOUR ARAB STATES AFTER CAMP DAVID

NC241025Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 24 Aug--Citing informed Arab sources, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB says that President as-Sadat will embark on a swift Arab tour after the Camp David summit conference.

The sources told AL-'ARAB that President as-Sadat will brief the Arab leaders on the results of the Camp David summit regardless of whether the results prove to be positive and in the interests of peace or the conference fails.

The sources also said that President as-Sadat will make a speech after his return from Camp David, in case the conference fails, and before beginning his Arab tour. If the conference succeeds, the sources said, the Egyptian president will still make his tour and call for an Arab summit conference in any Arab capital to determine the post-Camp David summit steps.

The sources further said that the Egyptian president will send a number of Egyptian officials to various African and European states to explain Egypt's position after the Camp David summit conference.

PRESIDENT BEGINS VISIT TO CANAL GOVERNORATES

NC231540Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Aug 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat arrived in Isma'ilia this afternoon at the beginning of his visit to the canal governorates. During the 10-day visit, the president will inspect food security projects in these governorates.

The president was met on arrival by Maj Gen Mahmud Zaki 'Abd al-Latif, governor of Isma'ilia; Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, chairman of the Suez Canal authority; 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz, commander of the 2d Field Army; Anwar Bashir, secretary general of Isma'ilia Governorate; Husayn al-Aswad, chairman of the local council of Isma'ilia Governorate; and members of the political, popular and executive leaderships of the governorate.

CAIRO COURT CONFISCATES 26TH ISSUE OF AL-AHALI

NC231820Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug--The South Cairo Court, chaired by Justice Anwar Abu Sahla, today endorsed an order to confiscate the 26th issue of AL-AHALI newspaper, the organ of the leftist National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party. The issue was scheduled to appear this morning.

The court based its decision on the fact that the newspaper had resorted to instigation and casting doubt, particularly regarding the Camp David conference, Iran and the meaning of backwardness.

Yesterday, the state security intelligence confiscated the 26th issue of AL-AHALI and submitted the official confiscation report to the chief prosecutor, Mustafa Tahir, who endorsed the report and submitted it to the president of the Cairo Court.

IRAQI ENVOY, TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER MEET IN ANKARA

JN231437Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

[Text] 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and envoy of RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn, met in Ankara today with Turkish Foreign Minister Gunduz Okun. During the meeting, which was attended by the Iraqi ambassador to Turkey, various aspects of Iraqi-Turkish relations were discussed. In a statement to an INA correspondent after the meeting, the RCC member said that the discussion focused on political issues of mutual interest. He added: We are convinced that we have an identity of views and mutual understanding concerning the solution of outstanding economic problems. The RCC member added: We told the Turkish foreign minister and Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit that the Ba'th Party and the revolution leadership are eager to provide the broadest possible facilities to help the friendly country of Turkey in order to foster economic and political relations between the two countries.

'Adnan Husayn expressed his thanks and gratitude for the sincere and friendly spirit displayed by all the Turkish officials.

The Turkish foreign minister also made a statement to the INA correspondent. He said that his talks with 'Adnan Husayn had been fruitful and successful and had dealt with several international issues and bilateral relations. He added that he had exchanged views with 'Adnan Husayn on outstanding economic problems. The Turkish foreign minister said their views were identical on many issues concerning the area. He added that the RCC member's visit is a significant step for future Iraqi-Turkish relations and that it will contribute directly to the resolution of common issues. He said there will be an important development in Iraqi-Turkish relations in the next stage.

KURDISTANI PARTY EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR BA'TH PARTY

JN191547Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 19 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 August--The Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] has expressed its confidence that Iraq's struggling march under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party will undoubtedly thwart all suspicious schemes on the Arab and international levels. In a cable to the Ba'th Party Regional Command in reply to the congratulatory cable on the 32d anniversary of the DPK, the DPK Politburo reaffirmed that it stands with the Ba'th Party in one trench against the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance, so as to strengthen the pillars of national unity and mobilize all energies and potentials for the revolutionary transformations in society.

Al-Bakr Receives Delegation

JN201028Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 20 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 August--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received this morning a delegation of the Politburo of the DPK under Hashim Hasan 'Aqrawi, secretary of the party's Central Committee.

The members of the delegation asserted the DPK's support for the revolution under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in its constant confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist alliance in the Arab arena, as well as their effective contribution to the political, economic and social transformations on the path of building socialism in Iraq. The members of the delegation gave a symbolic present to President al-Bakr on the occasion of the 32d anniversary of the establishment of the DPK.

IBRAHIM: 'NO OBJECTION' TO FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

JN240707Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim has said that Jordan has no objection to attending the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Khartoum.

In reply to a question by AD-DUSTUR on Jordan's position on this conference, Ibrahim said that the Jordanian stand has not been yet conveyed to the Arab League.

PRESS COMMENTS ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

JN230959Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the Camp David summit in light of the recent statements by President Carter, President As-Sadat, and Israel's Weisman, AR-RA'Y believes that a new round of violence will sweep the area. The Arab countries, it cautions, should therefore consider adopting a position of self-defense. The paper adds: The Arab countries are facing a serious situation during the next stage. But it appears that the Arab countries are not prepared for this situation and do not intend to prepare for it. This has been clearly revealed in the outcome of the recent tours by certain Arab leaders.

Addressing the Arab leaders AD-DUSTUR urges them to crystalize their position should the Camp David summit fail, particularly in the wake of the stern Israeli statements and the apparent U.S. expectations. The paper adds: It is incumbent upon all Arab sides--regardless of their stand toward the Egyptian initiative--to hold mutual consultations as soon as possible to decide what the Arab position should be if the Camp David summit fails to oblige Israel to withdraw completely from the occupied Arab territories and to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The paper adds: The consultations should not be interpreted as being in favor of the Egyptian initiative, because this initiative now belongs to history, whereas the Arab cause, which might face a serious turning point at the end of the summer, belongs to the Arabs who, on their part, must not be mere observers.

AL-URDUN notes that Israel is preparing for the Camp David summit in a manner to enable it to reject any pro-settlement proposals even if these proposals are made by the United States and President Carters.

The paper believes that the Camp David summit will probably not be achieved at the Leeds conference. It also believes that the gap separating the two sides--the Arabs and Israel--covers all the factors of the existing struggle.

PROPOSAL TO AIRLIFT KAWKABA UNIT REJECTED

NC231816Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1712 GMT 23 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 23 August--Official sources have said that Lebanon has rejected the proposal to airlift to Tibnin the army unit held up in Kawkaba instead of having the unit take the land route which passes through the border areas under the control of the isolationist forces.

The sources add that the Lebanese Government insists that these units should continue their route in accordance with the plan that had been drawn up for the course they must follow. The sources say that airlifting the units contravenes this plan and would harm the government's prestige as well as the morale of the army, which is still in the rebuilding phase and in the first stage of its mission.

ENVOY TO UN MEETS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

NC231450Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni called on Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov at his office in the embassy this morning. The meeting lasted for 90 minutes. Afterward, Ambassador Tuwayni said: The aim of the visit was to review the UN Security Council resolution on the south and the contacts held with the UN under secretary of political affairs. This visit is one of a series of the diplomatic contacts underway concerning the fate of Resolution 425 in view of the Soviet Union's role as one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

PREMIER TALKS TO REPORTERS AFTER CABINET MEETING

NC231357Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At 1115 President Ilyas Sarkis presided over the cabinet session held at the Presidential Palace in the presence of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and the other ministers. The meeting continued until 1330, after which His Excellency President Sarkis held a meeting attended by Prime Minister al-Huss, Minister of Foreign Affairs Fu'ad Butrus and Commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces Col Sami al-Khatib. The meeting continued until 1400, after which the prime minister replied to reporters' questions as follows:

What were the most important results attained in the cabinet session and in the meetings preceding it?

The prime minister replied: In its meeting today and in the working meetings preceding it, the cabinet discussed the security and political situations in the country as well as the results of the contacts held with the UN under secretary for political affairs, Mr Urquhart. Concerning security, I wish to say that security is a thing of our own making. The calm which has been prevailing in the country during the past few days is the best proof for this. Those who have brought about security in the country in this calm period which has been prevailing can help maintain it permanently in the future.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: All the Lebanese are looking forward to the day on which the imposition of security will be in the hands of the legitimate authorities, for which there is no alternative. However, until the state becomes more proficient in controlling the security situation, the reins of maintaining calm will remain in the hands of those who are capable of causing disruptions, disturbances or explosions. Therefore I say: It is imperative for us to maintain the state of calm which we have lately been enjoying; we must be capable of doing this as we have been doing lately.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: The logic of resorting to weapons does not conform to the logic of adhering and clinging to legality; and the desire for legality does not conform to the act of obstructing the legal force--that is, the Arab Deterrent Forces. Therefore I say: We can maintain calm permanently in the forthcoming phase just as we have maintained it during the past few days.

Question: After telling us all of the above, there is talk nowadays about a political plan being drawn up which constitutes a minimum limit of the national detente. What are your comments on this?

Answer: There is no doubt that a relaxation of security will not be completely realized unless it is based on political relaxation. Therefore, there must be a political initiative, which will achieve a political relaxation which, in turn, is bound to lead to the security relaxation desired by us all.

Question: Is there a possibility of forming a political government in order to implement this political plan?

Answer: It is premature to discuss this subject.

Question: What did Mr Urquhart's visit achieve?

Answer: We have not yet achieved decisive results concerning this subject. Mr Urquhart is continuing his contacts. We will continue to be in constant touch with him so that he can inform us of the results which he achieves as they come about.

Question: Yesterday, former President Camille Sham'un made a statement in which he considered the fortifications being set up by the Arab Deterrent Forces as an unhealthy indication, which will lead to new frictions. How can we interpret these remarks? Can we attain any result in light of these accusations--while you claim that the Arab Deterrent Forces' mission is being obstructed?

Answer: There is no reason at all to return to the clashes. We have assumed responsibility and security is our responsibility and the responsibility of every citizen. We can control it as we please. The responsibility for maintaining calm and security belongs to the state just as it belongs to every citizen in this country. There is no reason at all to return to the clashes and eruptions in the security situation.

INA: MINISTER BUTRUS TO VISIT DAMASCUS SOON

JN240740Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 24 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 August--It was reported here today that Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus will visit Damascus within the next few days. While in Damascus, Butrus will hold talks with Syrian officials on the Lebanese situation and Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI PAPER

JN231452Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 23 August--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated that the agreements concluded with the PLO remain in force and that relations between his country and the PLO are normal. The agreements, he said, should be discussed with the PLO. He explained that the security crisis currently facing Lebanon is an aspect of the political problems. Sound security can only be achieved through political relaxation within the context of national reconciliation.

Dr al-Huss said that a formula for reconciliation should be based on the two issues of southern Lebanon and of the rebuilding of the Lebanese Army on a solid patriotic basis.

In an interview given to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, the Lebanese prime minister said that the situation of the two isolationist officers, Haddad and Shidyaq [words indistinct].

Dr al-Huss said that the idea of turning Beirut into a demilitarized city and placing it under a UN mandate was proposed by Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations and not by the Lebanese Government.

Dr al-Huss stressed that Lebanon will ask for the renewal of the Arab Deterrent Forces' mandate as long as there is a need for their presence. He pointed out that the question [word indistinct] of other Arab forces has not been proposed.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS INCIDENTS IN SOUTH, BEIRUT

NC231530Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 23 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] The Voice of Lebanon correspondent in the south reports that violent clashes were resumed this afternoon between Norwegian UNIFIL members and armed Palestinians and leftists. During these clashes various types of heavy and automatic weapons were used. Clashes are now taking place in the area of Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, Suq al-Khan and Al-Furaydis. The outcome of these clashes is not yet known.

There has been an increase in Beirut kidnap incidents recently aimed at creating an atmosphere of terror and at material gains.

Armed mobile roadblocks today confronted people passing over Fu'ad Shihab Bridge, where a number of employees working in the western area had been abducted. Armed men also carried out sniping activities in the direction of the locality of As-Sala'ah. Persons were hit and traffic stopped on the Fu'ad Shihab Bridge.

Reports from the north indicate that a man was found murdered in the town of Bsarma in Al-Kurah district. The governor of the north will convene an emergency meeting tomorrow in order to discuss the security developments there.

IRAQI DIPLOMAT IN DAMASCUS DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA

JN230628Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

[Text] An official Foreign Ministry spokesman has categorically denied Iraqi accusations that Wa'il al-Jabiri, counsellor at the Syrian Embassy in Baghdad, was connected with the incidents taking place there. The Iraqi authorities declared him persona non grata and requested him to leave Iraq within 48 hours.

In response to this measure, the Syrian Foreign Ministry has declared the third secretary at the Iraqi Embassy in Damascus, Muwafaq Muhammad Ayyub, persona non grata and asked him to leave Syria in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.

PAPERS ASSAIL AS-SADAT MOTIVES IN GOING TO CAMP DAVID

JN231310Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on the current preparations for the Camp David meeting, AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Attention is now focused on the Camp David meeting, wondering about the next retreat. It is obvious the Carter administration will try through the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli summit to bolster the As-Sadat regime in an attempt to save him from collapsing. If Israeli intransigence prevents this, then the Camp David summit will again try to find a bloody and savage outlet to divert attention [from As-Sadat's failure]. If the U.S. administration succeeds in convincing the Likud leader to offer concessions to bolster the As-Sadat regime, Camp David more likely will result in another phased agreement in which Israeli occupation authorities will relinquish areas in the Sinai in exchange for major bilateral steps leading to the exchange of diplomatic and economic relations between Egypt and the aggressors.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says that if the Camp David collusion results in further military and economic pressures on Syria, these pressures, regardless of their intensity, will not prevent Syria from escalating its national position for liberation. Syria remains the main link in the front of steadfastness and confrontation and its firm and courageous stand is a stronghold of hope in the midst of others' retreats. Syria is also the party which encourages our Arab masses to continue with the struggle initiatives dictated by the circumstances of our fateful cause.

Under the headline "They Want To Conceal the Conspiracy by Talking of War," TISHRIN says: With the Camp David meeting getting closer, the U.S. and Western press, as well as some Arab newspapers, are talking more about the possibility of war breaking out in the Middle East. President Carter was the first to hint about such a possibility when he said war in the Middle East was the only alternative if the Camp David talks failed. It was he who hinted that the talks must succeed to prevent an inevitable war from taking place.

The paper notes that a quick look at some of yesterday's papers revealed the following talk about war: NEWSWEEK, in its report on the Camp David talks, stated there will be no winners in a Mideast war, and that Syria and Israel will be drawn into the battle as a result of what is happening in Lebanon. A dispatch from Washington published in an Arab newspaper outside Syria carried the following headline: "The Fifth War Will Take Place at the End of This Year. Camp David Summit Is To Prevent or Postpone This War."

TISHRIN wonders whether this talk about a Middle East war and Israel's nuclear superiority is a coincidence or is linked to a specific plan related to the Camp David meeting. Such talk, it answers, cannot be coincidence: It is intentional, controlled by the U.S. Zionist psychological warfare sources, and is part of the preparations being made to achieve a bilateral settlement between As-Sadat and Begin. The paper adds: In the past the imperialist-Zionist psychological warfare agencies sought to support and justify As-Sadat's November 1977 visit to the occupied territories by claiming it was to avoid an inevitable war. They are now trying to do the same for As-Sadat's new step--which is no less dangerous than his visit to the occupied territories--again claiming that it also seeks to prevent the outbreak of war.

An editorial in ATH-THAWRAH under the headline "Political Deception Will Not Conceal the Truth Behind the Conspiracy," states: Once again political deception is being used to cover the peddling of a new conspiratorial step. As-Sadat is trying to make believe that his meeting with Begin under the U.S. umbrella is of special importance and will foster big results. His information agencies are saying that UN Security Council Resolution 242 will be the basis for the talks. These misleading activities by As-Sadat are aimed at portraying his regime's efforts as legitimate acts justified by Arab and international quarters, especially since there is every indication he is going to offer new concessions to Israel and acquiesce to its policy of expansion and aggression. Each As-Sadat concession is met with clear Israeli intransigence, which is not surprising since Begin has repeatedly announced that the special plan he submitted to the Leeds meeting will be the basis for talks with As-Sadat at the Camp David meeting; that is, Israel is willing to partially withdraw from the Sinai, retaining bases and settlements there, as the price for permanent peaceful relations with Egypt. ATH-THAWRAH adds that all these moves and statements are part of the plan by those behind the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy to insure their objectives at Camp David at the expense of the Arab world. As-Sadat, in going to Camp David, is following a capitulationist course which will result in complete cooperation with Washington and Tel Aviv. As-Sadat is implementing the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy not only to liquidate the Palestinian cause and abort the Arab struggle, but to peddle imperialist-Zionist solutions that will harm the Arab world and Africa. Thus, we find his contradictory statements and previous claims that he would not meet again with Begin are part of the series of political deceptions in preparation for peddling the conspiracy and to justify his next capitulationist steps with the aim of gaining time for the conspiracy, for the only role left for As-Sadat is that of an agent with all the connotations of the word.

KHADDAM RECEIVES PLO, LEBANESE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS

JN231549Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Today Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by Faruq Qaddumi, Zuhayr Muhsin and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, members of the PLO Executive Committee. During the meeting they discussed the situation in the area and the meeting of the Palestinian Central Council, as well as the current malicious, ferocious onslaught on the PLO by the ruling regime in Baghdad. They also reviewed the dangers posed by the coming meeting in Camp David.

Khaddam also received this afternoon a delegation representing the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the National Front consisting of Muhsin Ibrahim, George Hawi, In'am Ra'd, Tawfiq Sultan, Salim Shatila, 'Asim Qansu, 'Isam Mahayiri, Kamal Shatila and Habib Fayruz. They reviewed all aspects of the situation in Lebanon. There was an atmosphere of understanding and frankness at the meeting, and views were identical on all matters discussed. The delegation emphasized the significance of the profound ties and relations between Syria and Lebanon.

Nationalist Official Comments

JN240804 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Aug 78 JN

[Text] George Hawi, vice chairman of the Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, has praised the results of yesterday's meeting between a Lebanese Nationalist Movement and National Front delegation and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Hawi stated that viewpoints were identical on the danger of the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat conspiracy manifested in the continuation of the treasonous capitulationist course through the Camp David talks. Hawi also stressed the necessity to mobilize all Arab progressive and patriotic capabilities to confront and oppose this conspiracy.

Viewpoints were also identical on the danger of the conspiracy being implemented by Israel and the Sham'unist and Phalangist gangs in Lebanon within the framework of the U.S.-Zionist-As-Sadat conspiracy in the area. This conspiracy aims at disrupting Lebanon's unity, taking away its Arab character, dealing a blow to patriotic elements in the Lebanese arena, liquidating the Palestinian resistance, exhausting Syria to prevent it from carrying out its role of confronting the capitulationist course in the area, obstructing Syria's effort to consolidate security in a unified Lebanon and preventing Syria from contributing to protecting Lebanon's unity and its national elements.

Concluding his statement, George Hawi said that the conferees had also stressed the necessity to mobilize all potential to foil the conspiracy to set up a new Israel in Lebanon, which would harm not only Lebanon's destiny but also the future of the Arab area and its pan-Arab existence.

Stress was also placed on the necessity for the Lebanese patriotic forces and all Lebanese forces concerned with Lebanon's unity and Arabism to assume their principal role of confronting the conspiracies of the Zionist-Sham'unist-Phalangist alliance and its hostile schemes against the interests of the majority of the Lebanese people, particularly the Christians.

AL BA'TH: ISRAELI-LEBANESE RIGHTIST TIES NOW OVERT

JN241000Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Aug 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In the "With the Events" column, under the headline "Will Fire Be Rekindled in the South?", the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: In its report on the secret consultations Begin recently held at his house with his war and foreign ministers and the occupation army's chief of staff, the enemy radio has stated that an Arab personality, probably from Lebanon, participated in these consultations, which lasted for 3 hours. This is what the enemy radio reported, quoting rumors to that effect. The radio explained that the consultations dealt with the development of the situation in southern Lebanon. It is up to the listener to make his own deductions.

AL-BA'TH adds: Another news item--this one broadcast over the Phalangist radio a few hours later--states that intensive Israeli patrols have been observed all along the southern borders in expectation of new fedayeen operations. Here also, the listener must make his own deductions.

What can we deduce? Undoubtedly coordination between the Sham'unist-Phalangist alliance with Israel has become a well-established fact, known through clear evidence revealed by the two parties.

Arms flowing to these gangs from Israel, the presence of Zionist officers and soldiers in the Phalangist ranks, the continuous meetings between the terrorist leaders of both sides--that is, those meetings recently revealed between the two agents, Sa'd Haddad and Sami Shidyaq, and a number of Zionist officials--confirm that this coordination is now overt and has reached the point at which it is bragged about.

The paper concludes that the exchange of news broadcast over the enemy and Phalangist radios--the two items which we have reported--shows that this coordination is at its peak. The aim of this coordination is to prepare [words indistinct] the security march in Lebanon in a frantic manner, perhaps exceeding the previous provocations of the gangs of the treasonous alliance.

Feverish contacts between the criminal gangs and the Zionists have been stepped up for various reasons. The most important of these is the effort being exerted in the Lebanese arena to consolidate security. This also means popular unanimity on the necessity of setting up a broad front to block the road to those who are playing havoc with Lebanon's security and the United Nations efforts, and to concentrate on enabling the Lebanese Army's vanguard unit to enter southern Lebanon and carry out the sacred duty of wiping out hirelings.

KHADDAM, FRG MINISTER HOLD TALKS IN DAMASCUS

JN231420Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Shortly before noon today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Rainer Offergeld, FRG minister of economic cooperation, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, which was attended by George Huraniyah, minister of state for planning affairs, relations between the two countries were discussed.

A session of talks between Syria and the FRG this morning reviewed their relations of cooperation and ways of promoting them.

Syria, FRG Sign Agreement

JN231957Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Aug 78 JN

[Text] An agreement on economic cooperation between Syria and the FRG was signed this afternoon. Under the agreement, the project of developing the (Al-Ghab) area in Syria will be implemented. Cost of this project is DM65,415,000.

The agreement was signed on the Syrian side by Dr George Huraniyah, minister of state for planning affairs, and on the German side by Dr (Baker), regional member of the board of the Construction Loan Bank.

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N O R T H A F R I C A

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LIBYA

FOREIGN SECRETARY AT-TURAYKI RECEIVES RWANDA COUNTERPART

LD241024Y Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 24 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 24 August, JANA--Foreign secretary, Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, yesterday received the foreign minister of Rwanda. The two parties reviewed aspects of cooperation between the Jamahiriya and Rwanda in every field and discussed ways of strengthening this cooperation in the interest of the two countries' friendly peoples.

Furthermore, the two sides also reviewed the situation in Africa and issues of growing importance to the Jamahiriya and Rwanda.

MOROCCO

MOROCCAN, IRAQI NEWS AGENCIES SIGN COOPERATION ACCORD

LD211339Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 13 Aug 78 p 3 LD

[MAP report: "Cooperation Agreement Between the MAP Agency and the Iraqi news agency]

[Text] Rabat, 12 August--MAP Director Abdeljalil Fenjiro and Iraqi news agency director Mr (M'hammad Manai Yassine) signed a cooperation agreement between the two agencies at the Information Ministry this morning.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Information Minister Mohamed Larbi Khattabi, Ministry Secretary General Mustapha Kasri and Agency Union Secretary General Dr (Ferid Ayar).

The agreement will increase cooperation between the two agencies and will enable the information carried by the two agencies to be distributed in Morocco and Iraq.

Mr Larbi Khattabi made a speech in which he welcomed the agreement, which opens up new possibilities in cooperation between the two agencies and will foster understanding between the two peoples.

SUDAN

SUDAN, UGANDA TO RESUME TALKS ON AIR TRANSPORT LINK

LD231542Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Text] High-level discussion will begin at Khartoum's Friendship Hall today between Sudan and Uganda with a view to the signing of an agreement under which air transport operations will be resumed between the two countries. The discussions follow the dissolution of the East African Community which formerly signed international agreements in this sphere in the name of other states.

The Ugandan side is being led by Mr Hussein Marijan, minister of aviation and communications, and the Sudanese side by Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, chief of the general staff and chairman of the Board of Directors of Sudan Airways.

LEADERS, PRESS COMMENT ON CAMP DAVID, OTHER ISSUES

Begin on Difficulties

TA232017Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said this evening that if a demand is made of him at Camp David to remove settlements, there will be no agreement. The prime minister commented that he wants settlements, but also relations with the United States and the problem is how to live with the two. For this it will be necessary to act with wisdom.

The prime minister made these remarks at a meeting of the Likud faction in his office in Jerusalem, and they are brought to us by correspondent Zevi Lidor. He reported that, in the framework of the settlement, there was a willingness for an IDF presence in Judaea and Samaria without any limitation of 5 years, but he did not go into details. Members of Knesset who took part in the meeting said that the reference was, as far as could be seen, to the United States. The prime minister pointed out that there is no need to exaggerate suspicions of the United States and he does not fear that the Camp David conference will be a trap for Israel. However, he said that it may be that after the conference he will return to Israel without any news to report and it may be that Israel will have further difficult months.

Strategy Documents Drafted

TA240700Y Jerusalem POST in English 24 Aug 78 p 1 TA

[By Anan Safadi]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin today will circulate among his cabinet ministers two documents which he plans to submit at the Camp David summit meeting with Presidents Anwar as-Sadat and Jimmy Carter, beginning on September 5.

Both documents have annexes dealing with the two possibilities of either a comprehensive settlement with Egypt and Jordan or "permanent partial agreements" designed to lead to a peace settlement in stages.

The documents both deal with the future of settlements in Sinai, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and both exclude the Golan Heights. Begin's position is that Israel would be prepared to negotiate a peace agreement with Syria, involving possible territorial compromises on the Golan, if Syria dropped its opposition to the current peace efforts.

The drafting of the strategy documents was completed last night by a four-man team of experts comprising Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, head of the prime minister's office, Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, head of the army's planning branch; Me'ir Rosenne, legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry; and Me'ir Gabay, director-general of the Justice Ministry.

The four had gone through all the peace proposals made by Israel during contacts with Egypt since President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last November. They also took into account suggestions made by Egypt and the U.S.

The resulting position papers amount to recommendations based essentially on Begin's long-standing peace plans. They focus on two major approaches: reinstating Egypt's sovereignty over all of Sinai but maintaining Israel's right to preserve a minimal civilian and military presence in the northern and southern tips of the peninsula; and promoting a Jordanian-sponsored autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with Israel again reserving the right to maintain a dominant security presence, together with a civilian one, the scope of which would be determined by local Arab willingness to sell land to Israelis.

The documents were also understood to have touched on the issue of East Jerusalem, but government circles were adamant in their refusal to disclose any details "pending Begin's talks at Camp David." Begin was recently reported to be visualizing a united Jerusalem--as Israel's capital--divided into boroughs giving Arab suburbs sub-municipal powers, with special status for Moslem shrines in the old city.

The annexes of the documents are understood to leave a variety of options and possibilities open for the accomplishment of concrete peace negotiations with Egypt, Jordan and representatives of local Palestinian Arabs.

One well-informed source familiar with the ideas Begin will present at Camp David said last night that despite the uncertainty surrounding the future of the negotiations, Israel "will leave open every door for peace"--on condition that As-Sadat is not rigid over the three basic Arab demands: that Israel withdraw to the 1967 frontiers on the West Bank and in Gaza; that the Palestinians get a mechanism for self-determination which could lead to the setting up of an independent state; and that Israel relinquish East Jerusalem.

In Cairo, experts from the president's office and the Foreign Ministry were due to wrap up their own country's strategy papers today.

Peres on W. Bank, DMC

TA231218Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Aug 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres said this morning that up to now there had been no contacts between his party and the DMC to examine the possibility of political cooperation.

At a press conference for party affairs correspondents in Tel Aviv, Peres also outlined his party's proposals regarding the way to reach an arrangement with Egypt and expressed the belief that a declaration of principles with respect to the West Bank should be aspired for at Camp David. Following such a declaration there would be negotiations with Egypt and the inhabitants of the territories on the temporary administration of the West Bank. Here is an excerpt of an interview with Peres by our correspondent Haggay Hitron: [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Peres, briefly could you make clear the difference between joint councils in the West Bank for a limited period of time, as you called them, and the cabinet's autonomy plan?

[Answer] There are two main differences, the first is that we continue to favor incorporating the Jordanians and creating a real and substantive partner with which to hold negotiations, a partner comprising Jordan, on the one hand, and the inhabitants of the territories on the other hand. Secondly, the autonomy plan is in fact a compromise which says that control will be divided. In dividing control--as in dividing territories--the question of borders immediately arises. The border of the division as suggested by the cabinet will not, in my opinion, be acceptable to the Arabs. If the cabinet withdraws from that line, the autonomy would at once turn into a Palestinian entity. On the other hand, if--for an interim period, until the permanent borders are drawn, and I have no doubt that the permanent borders would constitute a territorial compromise--we establish a kind of joint thing between Jordan, the inhabitants of the territories and Israel, we would be able to overcome the problem of a partition and the problem of a border. This is the second advantage.

[Question] Perhaps you could somewhat clarify what this joint thing is, how it would operate?

[Answer] It would be determined that the IDF would maintain its positions in Judaea and Samaria along the Jordan River, while joint activity would concentrate in the fields of terrorism and police; I am not even ruling out the possibility of a joint police force.

[Question] At the press conference you said that you were not ruling out the possibility of exchanging territories. You were talking about the negotiations with Egypt, the border with Egypt. Where are the territories in Israel which, in your opinion, one can think about returning to Egypt in the framework of such territorial exchange?

[Answer] I hope that we will not have to use this solution but rather find another one. However, I am not ruling it out because I would not like to rule out any option today. Theoretically, you could say that, for example, the border between us and Egypt is 250-km long. If you move the border 1 km, you have the entire Rafah approaches area, for example.

[Question] Mr Peres, in the next few days, after the situation in the DMC becomes more clear, will you initiate contacts with various groups in the DMC in order to go together on the political path?

[Answer] I do not know how things will end in the DMC. I am experienced enough in political life to avoid prophecy. Let us see how things develop. We will determine our way in accordance with the developments. However, one thing is as clear as day: The DMC committed itself to support a territorial compromise. In effect, however, it joined a cabinet which opposes such a compromise. At least in principle, we will obviously seek parliamentary cooperation with anyone who supports a territorial compromise.

[Question] Have you already begun unofficial contacts with members of the Shinui group?

[Answer] The answer is negative, certainly as long as things are happening as they are [words indistinct] to interfere in the course of events, and in the future, too. I am talking about something definitely limited, cooperation in matters on which there are shared views and in the framework of the Knesset. [end recording]

Comments on Camp David

TA231239Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says that he opposes the idea of a functional division for administration of the West Bank. Peres was speaking in Tel Aviv on his approach to the Camp David summit. [Peres] I believe in facing the functional division; we shall encounter exactly the same difficulties as we are encountering in the territorial division, namely, the problem of the frontiers. If Israel will keep for herself too much of the government, it won't be an autonomy; if she will hand over full autonomy, well, she will lose her control over the West Bank entirely and return to the 1967 frontiers. And I do not believe that the government can agree to it.

I would think that as an interim solution, the best approach would be sharing government instead of dividing it, something that may save the difficulties in outlining a frontier between where does the Israeli control begin and where does the Arab autonomy start.

[Question] What exactly are you recommending?

[Answer] I am recommending two different things: one, a declaration of principles, as far as Egypt is concerned, and in that declaration Israel should state clearly that we are ready to withdraw from parts of the West Bank so Egypt will be able to say: Well, I have paved the way to solve the Palestinian problem, and then, while negotiating with the Jordanians and the Palestinians who reside on the West Bank, to suggest--as an interim solution--sharing of government whereby, in the future, we shall determine the permanent boundary.

[Question] Mr Begin has said that the Americans cannot be full partners to negotiations because the problem is between Israel and the Arabs. Mr as-Sadat has said that by saying this, Mr Begin is setting up a precondition. Do you believe that the Americans can be full partners in the sense of the word in the negotiations with the Arabs?

[Answer] Instead of dealing with descriptions, I would deal with content. I would object and not recommend an American plan, but I can imagine that once we shall encounter difficulties, the American may come up with their own suggestions. [end recording]

Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres was interviewed by reporter Shim'on Ayyalon.

Additional Comments by Peres

TA232056Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Aug 78 TA

[Text] MK Shim'on Peres, the chairman of the Labor Party, said today that the Israeli delegation to the conference in Camp David must come to a joint declaration of principles with Egypt, using the Vienna document. MK Peres was at a press conference in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent reports: [begin videotape]

MK Shim'on Peres came to the press conference with a proposal in his pocket for the Israeli delegation to the Camp David conference. The basis of the proposal is to bring out the flexibility, and not the intransigence, in the Israeli cabinet's positions.

[Peres] My way appears to be correct, that is, to come to an agreement with each side on that issue which interests it: With Egypt, on a declaration of principles, so that Egypt will be able to get up and tell the Arab world: I have paved the way in order, let us say, to solve the Palestinian problem in a Jordanian-Palestinian framework. Afterward, to conduct negotiations with Jordan and with the inhabitants of the territories not necessarily on the division of the rule, but on joint rule during a transition period, while in the future we will want to come to territorial compromise simply because we will want to guarantee the Jewish character of the State of Israel.

[Correspondent] MK Peres, who complained of the nonincorporation of the opposition in the preparations and consultations for Camp David, added that the conference would not necessarily fail, but the Cabinet of Israel must know that there is a limit to the ability to play with semantics and it must determine its positions clearly and decisively.

[Peres] I am disturbed by the zigzags of the cabinet. There is no issue in the negotiations on which the cabinet has not changed its views, and changed them too late. It was hard to begin with and flexible afterwards. It should have been the other way around.

Let us take, for example, practically every issue on the agenda. On Sinai, on the first evening giving up everything; on the second evening, the Rafah approaches were recalled. The order should have been the other way round. On the issue of autonomy: the cabinet announced in the Knesset that this was a permanent program. Later it said, no, in another 5 years it would be prepared to discuss sovereignty and transformed it into a temporary program.

[Correspondent] At the end of the press conference, MK Peres dissociated himself from the letter by the 100 reservists presented to the prime minister yesterday. It does not appear to me, Peres said, that somebody can decide whether to serve or not serve in the reserves because of his political views. This is an order which must be carried out without hesitation, since it is a condition of the unity of the nation. [end videotape]

MAFDAL Wants Burg at Camp David

TA232038Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Aug 78 TA

[Text] MAFDAL is demanding that the minister of the interior, Yosef Burg, be included in Israel's delegation to Camp David if the cabinet decides to send Deputy Prime Minister Yigael Yadin there. This was decided today in a consultation between MAFDAL ministers and the chairman of the Knesset faction. The MAFDAL is insisting that only the prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister go to Camp David. Our Knesset correspondent reports that there were hints in the MAFDAL today that there would be a coalition crisis if their demand is turned down.

Allon on U.S. Position

TA231059Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Based on contacts with U.S. personages MK Yig'al Allon has reached the conclusion that the U.S. Government is beginning to be convinced that the principle of territorial compromise is now the foreseeable solution.

The former foreign minister said this to the members of Circle 77 of the Israeli Labor Party in Jerusalem yesterday. Allon added that it seems to him the United States will aim at raising the idea of territorial compromise at the Camp David meeting and from this results part of his optimism concerning the success of the meeting. Despite the fact that the U.S. and Egyptian governments are coordinating their moves, the United States is revealing increasing readiness to adopt the solution of territorial compromise.

Allon criticized the government which, in his opinion, did not and does not coordinate its moves with the Carter administration, especially on the eve of a major political event for Israel such as the Camp David meeting. Previous governments in Israel, he said, insisted on having coordination and got coordination on major issues.

Several members of the Circle 77 group claimed that the Labor Party should change the formula of territorial compromise--a term outdated after the Yom Kippur War--and adopt the formula of "a change of borders for security needs."

'AMIT INTERVIEWED ON DMC SPLIT, OTHER ISSUES

TA232115 [Editorial Report TA] Jerusalem domestic television service in Hebrew at 1935 GMT on 23 August carries a live interview with Transport and Communications Minister Me'ir 'Amit in the studio. The interviewers are Dan Raviv, Yoram Ronen and Eli'ezer Ya'ari.

Asked when he will announce the path he will follow in the wake of the demise of the DMC, Amit expresses regret over the split in the DMC despite his appeals because, "the timing is unfortunate. We are on our way to Camp David and, in my opinion, this is not the time for the people of Israel to split up and splinter." As to his future moves Amit says, "I wish to say explicitly--I have all sorts of options. I have been pictured as one who sits on the fence, who doesn't decide. The opposite is the case. I decide, but I decide after consideration and there is one thing that I wish to say here; I am not going home." "One of the possibilities was to say: Gentlemen, enough. It was very pleasant. I tried, I was unsuccessful--an ideal, a vision, an illusion which burst, so beautiful a thing. It was unsuccessful so I am going home. I wish to announce here, I am not going home." Amit goes on to say, "I think that we have to fight on for those values for which I entered politics." At this stage I wish to unite all the nonaligned forces within the DMC--and perhaps from the vicinity."

Amit says that the council meeting called by Yadin for Thursday night is not a DMC Council meeting but "the founding meeting of a new movement." He says that there will be "surprises," adding that he will not attend. He repeats "in my opinion, there will be surprises." Amit says that a meeting of all nonaligned members of the movement will take place next week to decide on one of two possibilities, either not to join either of the bodies or to join one of them. I wish to say that I do not blame anyone but I do place responsibility. I place responsibility on Yigael Yadin, who is the leader of the movement, for being too hasty and for doing what he did. I am not cutting ties with him. I also want to keep the possibility of joining him. But I wish to tell him that by calling the meeting tomorrow, it "makes things very difficult for me."

Asked about his continued service as a minister in the government Amit says, "It will be harder to persuade me to remain in the government than to leave it." He says that the issue of his cabinet seat is not relevant. "My question today is how I can--and this has to be the decision next week--realize in the best way possible those aims, targets and good thoughts that I had and I am sure that remaining in the government is the best way in this situation."

Amit admits that the electorate is disappointed with the DMC, but he expresses the belief that there is a chance that the voters will return if the principles upon which the DMC was founded are realized.

The questioning goes over to the DMC's inability to influence government decisions. Asked about his view of the autonomy plan proposed by the Israeli Government Amit says, "I think that the autonomy plan is not bad if it could be accepted by the other side." "I think that Prime Minister Menachem Begin is the best man to bring peace, if he is able. Because if he succeeds in surpassing himself and making concessions then he would symbolize consensus. If he goes over to the opposition then the people would be split in two and there would be a problem. Therefore, considering his view and that of As-Sadat--and in my opinion he is more interested in Egypt than in Judaea and Samaria and the Palestinians--he does not want a Palestinian state--in the past I thought--despite the fact that I believe in a territorial compromise--that the autonomy plan is not bad because it directs explicit things toward Egypt and leaves things vague with respect to Judaea and Samaria. As-Sadat's problem is how to give the minimum required to the Arab world and to the inter-Arab problems. This was the formula--it did not work well enough."

Pressed further on his views on a political settlement 'Amit says, "I think we should make concessions. This is not a secret, I always say this--in return for a real peace. The problem with a real peace is how to define it--that is, the nature of peace and how to insure that we do not put ourselves in an impossible position."

The interview goes on to discuss the DMC's inability to influence the government on economic issues--the DMC's platform calling for a 15 percent inflation rate while the inflation rate has gone up by over 50 percent since the DMC joined the government. 'Amit blames the Histadrut for making excessive wage demands.

The interview discusses problems in Israel's bus services with 'Amit maintaining that a lack of funds has prevented an increase in the number of buses in operation and an improvement in the service.

Yadin, Rubinstein on DMC Split

TA221842Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] [Sara Frankel--live] This afternoon at a press conference the sides sat around a table and informed the press of the agreement on the DMC split. The atmosphere was good and to illustrate this, Yadin and Rubinstein even shook hands for the cameramen. This was the first time in a long time that there has been no tension between the camps; there was no criticism and no interruption. [begin recording]

[Yadin] Because of various differences of opinion, the members of the DMC have reached the conclusion that they can no longer continue together along the political path. However, with this, the DMC platform, at this moment, and I am practically certain in the future as well, is acceptable to all of us. The DMC platform, which has not been put into operation up to now, maybe particularly in this field, but that does not change it, we also have views on how things should be done. [sentence as heard] We have arrived at this moment and have decided, by mutual agreement, that if it is decided that we are to separate, we are separating honorably and in such a way as to permit us in the future, if not to go together as political bodies, at least to live together as friends wherever we are. So we have agreed, and this is the guiding line in the whole of the agreement, that whatever the arrangements governing us may be, no one from the groups which from now on will follow different paths, will be restricted; in the hallowed tradition everyone will get what is due to him, so that he may be able to continue on his way in political life. [end recording]

[Frankel] This is a sad moment for all of us, Professor Yadin said, without recalling the events which preceded the split. The Yadin group has seven members of the Knesset: Yadin, Tamir, Algarabli, Halevi, Nof, As'ad and Eliyahu. The Shinui group has five: Rubinstein, Virshubski, Wertheimer, 'Atshah and Toledano. There are three whose line is not clear. Professor Rubinstein said at the press conference: [begin recording]

[Rubinstein] Maybe it is one of our paradoxes that we agree in our separation. I, at any rate, agree with every word Professor Yadin said. I want to say that this is a sad story and such a sad story cannot have a happy ending, but it can have an honorable ending and we can refrain from those fairly repellent phenomena which we have seen in the past when parties split up.

I think that one of the signs of political maturity is to know how to make a distinction between ideological differences of opinion and personal relations and I think that what has happened in the DMC is that, despite the ideological differences of opinion about the movement's path, good relations and relations of friendship and comradeship have been created and I hope they will also continue, between various members within that wonderful and strange experiment called the DMC. [end recording]

[Frankel] The DMC has reached the end of its road. From now on the camps will deploy themselves separately. Tomorrow the council members who are going with Yadin will meet, while the other side waits anxiously to hear who will be absent from the session. It is not yet clear where 'Amit, Golomb and Rubinstein [as heard] are going. The members of Shinui will meet on Sunday. The emerging trend in the Histadrut faction is to guard the wholeness of the faction. The Rubinstein people have no representatives in this faction, which is divided between Yadin's and 'Amit's people. The chairman of the Histadrut faction, Yisra'el Geranit, told me that it may be that the faction will declare its independence in order to preserve its wholeness, at least until it becomes clear where 'Amit stands. At any rate, the Histadrut faction will discuss this later. By the way, at the last minute, quite dramatically, it was not clear today whether MK Algarabli would join Yadin. It was only after persuasive talks that Yadin allowed Algarabli to put forward to the faction his views on betterment issues, and Algarabli announced that he was joining the Yadin camp. In conclusion, it should be said: The split is a fact, but not all the problems have been solved. How many different groups there will be--two or three--it is too soon to say. That being so, a year has passed and the two groups have returned to their origins: Yadin to the Democratic Movement; Rubinstein to the Shinui Movement.

POST on Split

TA240800Y Jerusalem POST in English 24 Aug 78 p 8 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] At the tender age of 18 months the Democratic Movement for Change has expired. Powered by the passion and bright hope that is the mark of movements seeking political reform, the DMC burst out onto the scene some 6 months before the last Knesset elections and was able in a brief time to enlist an impressive array of personalities into its front ranks. Moreover, it kindled the enthusiasm of thousands who became DMC activists after years of alienation from the dominant parties.

Generally the fate of such reform movements in democratic societies is to fade away--but only after they have corrected some of the abuses which brought them into being in the first place. The DMC never got that far, unless, of course, it is claimed that its purpose was to bring down the Labor Party. That it certainly achieved.

But it failed to bring about any essential reform in the country's political institution or even in the behavioral patterns of Israel's party system. On the contrary, it can be argued that the DMC's abrupt demise will discourage, for a long time, any further attempts to reform our parties from the outside. And it will also repel from further political activity those thousands of people, who sought purposeful engagement in the DMC.

Nevertheless, Professor Yadin is to be commended for having brought the internal differences in his party to resolution. Perhaps he should have forced the issue even earlier, for it was long clear that the Shinui component of his party was in all-out rebellion against his leadership.

His reluctance, while understandable, only weakened him further. But in the past week at least he resisted the temptation to temporize until after the Camp David meeting, as some of his foes and followers urged him to do.

What remains now are the pieces. Though one of the DMC's aims was to push through electoral reform and reduce the number of political parties, it is doubtful that the fragments of the DMC in the Knesset will quickly give up their new and independent roles in the house.

Professor Yadin, who will now probably preside over a seven-member Knesset faction, will want to see this as a springboard for a better future. The Shinui group, with five Knesset members, and the 'Amit faction with three members, will not find it simple to merge with labor, which for many was their party of origin.

As a result the Knesset will be fragmented as never before. But for the present, at least, Mr Begin will continue to enjoy a workable government majority.

BEGIN'S LETTER ON ARMING EL AL CREWS REVEALED

TA231042Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister's office this morning released details on the request Prime Minister Begin sent to the British prime minister to allow Israeli security officers in London to carry arms. This was done in reaction to the London Foreign Office's statement from which it was implied that there was no approach by the prime minister.

The prime minister's office reported that in mid-June, following the attack at Orly Airport in France, Israel's ambassador in London approached the British prime minister with a letter which said, among other things: Prime Minister Menahem Begin has asked me to forward to you his personal request concerning security arrangements pertaining to El Al passengers at Heathrow Airport.

Later in the letter there is a request that Israeli security officers be permitted to carry arms.

Two weeks later the British prime minister's personal secretary informed the Israeli ambassador in London that the security of El Al passengers remained solely in the hands of the British police.

After that, our ambassador in London, Avraham Qidron, talked to representatives of the British cabinet twice on this matter, but their response to our request on the question of carrying arms was negative.

SYRIA'S AL-ASAD REPORTEDLY HAS LEUKEMIA

TA231746Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ 23 Aug 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Oded Zaray]

[Excerpt] Syrian President General Hafiz al-Asad has leukemia and has recently been receiving frequent blood transfusions from a team of Soviet doctors specializing in malignant diseases. Sources in Beirut, quoting members of the entourage of former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiah, said that Al-Asad appears pale and weak and that he has lost weight. Franjiah visited Al-Asad last week in Latakia, by the sea, where the Syrian president has been staying for the past 2 weeks.

The sources said that when the president's Syrian doctors diagnosed the illness a team of Soviet doctors was speedily flown to Damascus and since then Al-Asad has been under the supervision of that team.

TEXT OF SHAH'S 18 AUGUST PRESS CONFERENCE

LD230904Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1637 GMT 18 Aug 78 LD

[Shahanshah Mohammed Reza Pahlvai 18 August press conference at Niavaran Palace on the occasion of the anniversary of the shahanshah's return to Iran following the overthrow of former Premier Mossadeq--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Recently, the government has been the target of criticism in religious speeches and sermons in mosques. Considering that Iran is the center of the Shi'ite sect and that there have always been good relations between the clergy and the government, do you think that some sort of misunderstanding has been created between the government and the clergy, and if so, has any measure been taken to remove it? My other question concerns the two schools of thought about the recent events. One is that a group of troublemakers and Islamic Marxists have perpetrated them. The second view, also supported by a faction of the Rastakhiz Party, holds that these events could not have been perpetrated by a group of saboteurs and Islamic Marxists. What are Your Majesty's views on the basis of the reports you have received?

[Answer] Needless to say, at the time I was sworn in on my accession to the throne, I took the oath on the following two matters: one, to preserve the Shi'ite religion, adhering to the existence of 12 imams of the Shi'ites, and the other, to preserve Iran's independence and territorial integrity. That I am myself a believing Moslem is enough in itself. I do not believe there is any country with as much freedom of religious practice as Iran. Not only do we encourage the performance of religious duties, we have also done everything necessary to rebuild or repair holy shrines, including the Holy Mashhad, Imam Reza's shrine, which was once in debt, and is now one of the proud Islamic monuments. The same applies to Shah Cheragh, which is today turned into a beautiful Islamic center, and we plan to make it a great Islamic complex.

What we must do is identify the attackers. As for criticism of the government, it is not really important. When we speak about political freedoms, we have all types of freedoms in mind, including the freedom of assembly and speech and freedom to write. As soon as the Majlis returns from its recess, the first bills to be submitted to it would be these two bills. [as heard] You do not find in any civilized country that freedom of speech means freedom to lie, freedom to accuse and to use fabrication. It is you as members of the media who ought to be able to recognize lies, to recognize fabrications and separate them from truth. If they are telling the truth then they ought to get an answer; if they are leveling accusations and telling lies, then that too ought to be made clear. As for your second question: There is no doubt that the Islamic Marxists have had a hand--all the slogans and pamphlets bear this out. But the remarks made by this faction of the Rastakhiz Party are also true. After, all, there must be 1 or 2 people among the 35 million people who, rightly or wrongly, and mostly rightly, are unhappy. Show me a country in the world in which someone is not unhappy. Do you know of one? If so, tell me. However, the executive, the government and others ought to try to eliminate discontent.

[Question] In your analysis, you indicated we were facing two issues, one concerning the very specific attempt at an overthrow, and the other, the matter concerning the people's discontent. So we probably need two different solutions to these two different problems. Could the shahanshah say what plans have been envisaged and what measures will be taken to solve these two separate issues?

[Answer] I presume the first issue you referred to concerns the plan to set up an Iranistan. As I have said, as long as I live--and I hope all of you [words indistinct]--and the armed forces are there, obviously we will not allow this to happen. Any change in Iran's geopolitical situation could, I believe, change the map of the whole world.

The second point concerning the elimination of discontent: We must first identify the cause of discontent and second find ways of eliminating it. Some aspects of discontent can be eliminated right away. Some of them require a longer period of time.

Let us take an example of discontent that can be remedied straightaway--and here I am citing hypothetical cases. Let us assume that there are 100,000 profiteering files accumulated against members of the guild of shopkeepers. So we might have a case of discontent here. The time taken by the Justice Ministry to settle these cases might be as long as 10 years. One immediate action that could be taken here, for example, is to let the newly elected Chamber of Guilds deal with these files and throw them away, provided the profiteer concerned realizes that his action will ultimately be detrimental to his own interests, for he may be able to sell 1, 2 or 10 items at higher prices but at the same time he will have to purchase many more items at equally high prices himself. So we have a kind of contest in terms of price increases.

Another question concerned housing, for example, which has been settled by principle number 18 of the revolution. You have no doubt observed that house prices and rents have dropped in some cases by 35 percent and in some cases by as much as 50 percent. We have heard that at the moment there is actually no real estate market any longer, or almost no market. There are also a number of fainthearted individuals who have heard a murmur here and there--these, I have heard are selling their houses as fast as they can and fleeing the country. This has also been instrumental in bringing prices down.

As for social justice, which constitutes the basic philosophy of the Rastakhiz Party, this concerns two matters. One is related to human rights principles. You should bear in mind that one of the principles of human rights is the right to have a job. In Iran today we have so many job opportunities that the Iranian people themselves are not enough to fill the jobs available and we have been forced to import manpower from abroad.

And of course you know the level of wages and salaries in the country. Anyone willing to work in this country can enjoy a good living. We hear about people pouring into the cities from rural areas because the earnings are so high in the cities; the cities attract them like a magnet. On the other hand, as far as I can tell from advanced countries, a developed country is one in which the minimum number of farmers produce the maximum amount of agricultural produce. It should be borne in mind, however, that the income of the man who stays behind in the village should be high enough to induce him to stay on. We first started implementing land reforms and gave land to those who were farming it. But some individuals received only two, three or four hectares of land. One cannot live on four hectares of land, especially if one has three or four children. So, either we should have a system of cooperatives with the cooperatives bearing the overall expenses, or transactions with a given farming community should be so high that the income generated will be enough for a farm family.

Another thing to consider is the industrialization of the country. The public sector taking care of the heavy industry--oil, steel, copper, petrochemicals, large coal mines and similar things. In the context of social justice we have said that even farms, pasture lands and such will be nationalized, based on social justice. That is to say, what God has created--when man has had nothing to do with its creation--should belong to society, the nation, the country. Forests have been nationalized, pasture lands have been nationalized--these are part and parcel of social justice.

When industry is created--that is, by the private sector--if there is no profit in it, nobody will be interested in setting up an industry. If there is no profit in it and nobody is therefore interested in setting up an industry, there will be no jobs for workers--workers who are now enjoying up to 20 percent of the factory profits, amounting to between 4 and 5 months of their annual wages, workers who may own as much as 49 percent of the shares of the factory.

This aspect of social justice in Iran is almost unique. There are still progressive countries in the world which are yet to have such a scheme. There may be individual factories that have adopted such a scheme independently, but it is not the law of the country that such a thing be done. Now social justice is served if the person who profits by the country's security, from the country's industry, from commerce or from any other occupation pays his due taxes. His children can, of course, have their education paid for through these due taxes. Not only that, all Iranian people can have their children educated through these due taxes. Let us take a family with five children. How much does a parent have to pay for educating one of the children per month? Now if he could not afford to pay he would not let the children go to school, as was in fact the case in the country in the past. On the day of the revolution, 26 January 1962, we had 3 million children of school age. And this happened following the improvements achieved since August 1953.

Today the figure is nearly 10 million. Well, whose money has made it possible? Some might say the oil money, but it is tax money. So the man who has more should pay more taxes so that the children of the man who has less can have a free education. We have even introduced a small morning meal for the children. There may be quite a lot of children who may not actually eat their meals, but there are some who do eat their morning meals. Statistics show that in certain areas, where standards of living were not so high, the standard of educational performance of the children who were given the morning meal immediately went up. [passage indistinct]

[Question] You have stated that the opposition may also take part in the coming elections. However, what is meant by the opposition? If it means the three principles of the Rastakhiz or the Shah-people revolution, all these principles have been approved by parliament. Then what are they opposed to and how are they to make their opposition known, so that people learn about these opposing views?

[Answer] You had better ask them; that is, when they are nominated. One thing is clear: If the opposition's aim is simply to oppose and talk, then the social and press laws have settled the issue, as in other civilized countries of the world. We intend to extend freedom as far as that. The law sets the limit, just as in any other civilized country. However, if the idea is to get elected to the Majlis, then the question of taking an oath comes up. What sort of oath should they take at the Majlis? You publish it in your papers; I have nothing to say.

[Question] The point is that certain groups and even some calling themselves political parties are at present operating and the government is tolerating them. The question is then raised whether the Rastakhiz Party--as compared with 3 years ago--still has a monopoly?

[Answer] Indeed it has, for even then we said that it was an all-embracing party open to everyone. We now see that the open-door policy and the maximum freedoms would (not) embrace all parts of the country [word indistinct]. Let us take an individual who, for whatever reason, does not like this situation and adheres to other ideas. This individual can do so even now, but later, according to the laws of the civilized world, he may say or write anything he wants.

[Question] [passage indistinct] Your Majesty, do you not think it is time to cleanse the country of the elements who oppose the principles of the Shah-people revolution?

[Answer] If you are referring to individuals within the government, then I must say this must be done. How long it is going to take, I do not know. You spoke of administrative reform and so forth.

However, if you are referring to those who have enjoyed the blessings of this country and working in private sectors, the figures I hear are really surprising. I hear about those who have left the country with their families and are now living in some other place. In this case, no one is responsible for these people and their conscience, for these people were not obviously [word indistinct] but individuals who simply enjoyed the advantages, without bothering to live up to their responsibilities. Now they have headed for other countries.

As for your remark about cleansing, I ought to point out that one cannot take action by mere accusations. As for referring their cases to the Justice Ministry, a very correct Justice Ministry [incomplete sentence as heard]. Of course, we have an imperial commission, an imperial inspectorate and a five-man commission. These commissions have already convicted a number of people. However, to answer your question about civil servants who have not advanced in conjunction with the reform, I must say you are right: These people should be identified, for the country is governed by the rule of law. As for ordinary people, only moral education and possibly the news media could do something. Why not, why should you not start preaching and remind the people that enjoying the advantages of the country is not enough, that one has certain debts to the country which one ought to repay.

[Question] [Words indistinct] as Iranians.

[Answer] Well, they are talking about freedom and human rights. They say everyone is free to choose his place of residence. Now, to which tune of the people should we dance? To the tune of human rights, individual freedom and social liberty, or to the tune of patriotic emotions?

[Question] I have three questions to ask Your Majesty. First: In view of the idea of an open political atmosphere and the shahanshah's remarks at this press conference to the effect that groups and individuals may freely, and outside the Rastakhiz Party, have political activity and participation, the question arises relating to the idea of the Rastakhiz Party being an all-embracing political organization. Does the shahanshah still consider the Rastakhiz Party an all-embracing party, or is it just a party existing along with other parties and groups? If the party is no longer regarded as an all-embracing party, is there any longer any need for the existence of the various wings within the party in their present forms, as these wings can form separate independent political groups? If the wings are to remain in the party, as the shahanshah noted in his address 4 years ago, is it not better for the wings to become separate ideological groups? By this I mean that the Rastakhiz Party will have, for example, a social democratic wing, a democratic wing, a liberal wing, a conservative wing and so forth. If this happens, the Rastakhiz Party should organize the people's various groupings within its own wings, not in the homogeneous party sections. In other words, the Rastakhiz Party will have to change its organizational structure completely. My question is: What in the shahanshah's view should the Rastakhiz Party look like?

[Answer] All your remarks are logical. In practice we will see whether there is a need for the various wings to clarify matters within the party itself. If they want a new situation to develop, as you mentioned, this is worth studying and investigating. This is something that should be given full consideration within the party.

[Question] My second question is related to the matter of social justice the shanshah referred to. In the context of social justice, in order to achieve social justice there should be, as a rule, the judiciary, to insure that no one is undermining social justice or violating it or abusing it.

As the shahanshah pointed out, as a result of country's very considerable material progress--which is also virtually without precedence elsewhere in the world--in recent years, certain groups of people have become rich. Their wealth has been protected by the government, as has the process by which they became rich--for example, the government's protection of certain industrial sectors, which is justifiable, because the country must become industrialized. However, these examples of protection have now turned into a source of abuse. A glance at this state of affairs raises the question that either our judiciary system is not adequate to the task and the laws operating within it are not sufficiently clear cut and specific to prevent the abuses to which the existence of social justice gives rise, or else these organizations are not doing their jobs properly.

There is a case in point which has been published in the papers. An individual has been arrested on charges of certain offenses, and he is one of the wealthy citizens of our country. Immediately following his arrest a number of dossiers have been cited against him and have been published in the press, some of them relating to several years ago. In other words, it is being said that this person committed certain offenses several years ago for which he has not been prosecuted. Now that he is being charged with certain other offenses, we suddenly hear that all the previous ones are also being brought up against him. This shows that, unfortunately, our judiciary is not doing its job properly. Does not the shahanshah think that our judiciary requires a basic change?

[Answer] We have raised this issue ourselves on several occasions in the past. I am not sure whether we need a review of the laws or whether we need in principle a much more stringent approach within the judiciary and within the existing adequate laws. This is also something for you, members of the media, to deal with. Instead of publishing banner headlines about matters that frighten the people, why don't you discuss these topics? If you publish matters of this nature your circulation will be just as great.

Another point, of course, concerns the matter of taxation. Now, the industrialist, whom the government protects in order to industrialize the country to provide jobs, should pay his due taxes to establish social justice. This is something on which you should focus your attention; namely, whether the due taxes have been collected. Another point is also the question of the judiciary.

[Question] The shahanshah has often talked about an advanced Iran, a civilized Iran and a democratic Iran. The democratization of society is also taking place at a regulated pace. If society becomes fully democratic, destructive forces from the left or the right will no longer be able to impose their solutions on society. For this reason they are trying to bring about insecurity in the social climate. [passage indistinct]

[Answer] I do not quite remember--I think it was 2 or 3 months ago when in answer to a question I said that this is the price we have to pay in order to achieve freedom. However, I did not think at the time that it would be so costly. Now listen, wrecking or setting fire to a bank where notes are kept, how much is it? Some 4 trillion rials. Now can we carry our money around or hide it under our mattress, or have a couple of money changers at the corner charging us a great deal of interest? We need banks.

Ours is not a nomad economy in which the people's annual income amounts to a few hundred rials which can be carried around in one's pocket. So, not only do we need banks but, according to some people, we need even more of them. So what is the point of setting fire to banks? I heard that they had set fire to a bank belonging to educators. This is what I mean by the great panic, this is what I mean by leading the country to Iranistan. There are, of course, other acts which are reported to us, we know about these plots.

As far as I am concerned, I am determined to test and experiment. However, there are many who are scared; there are many who wonder where we are going. I do hope we will not be led astray, that the institution is powerful enough and the Iranian people mature enough to allow us to reach complete freedom and democracy.

[Question] Is there any chance that the process of democratization might be suspended, interrupted or slowed down?

[Answer] As far as I am concerned, the answer is no.

[Question] Your Majesty, in order to bring about, extend and strengthen democracy in the country, we need two factors: one, the people themselves, through local councils and parliament, through their participation, by making their presence felt and by protecting their rights. The other factor is related to government organs, which, for their part, should appreciate the concept and provide facilities for the realization of this concept. They should not interfere unduly in this process or make the concept meaningless and so forth. As far as the first factor is concerned, namely the people, if they see interference by the government organs they develop disbelief leading to indifference to some extent, which is something in itself quite contrary to the intention of the shahanshah, namely, public participation. So the question is this: Do government organs properly appreciate this concept and properly implement it? Is the trend satisfactory as far as the shahanshah is concerned? Is the participation taking place properly? Do the people participate to the extent intended? If the people are participating satisfactorily, are the government organs appropriate to the circumstances?

[Answer] Your question, of course, has two answers, for this is a two-way process, a two-way street. To the same extent that government agencies should open the way for public participation, the people also have their share of responsibility. It is impossible to achieve this objective in a one-sided manner. If the people are interested they should participate.

[Question] Bearing in mind the recent incidents--incidents which in the case of Esfahan led to the declaration of martial law in the city--if these incidents continued or even intensified at the time of the next general election, leading to declarations of martial law in several areas, would the election take place in such conditions or would it be postponed?

[Answer] This is a question one cannot answer at present. One cannot predict such eventualities except in one's imagination. We hope that by the time of election two things will have become crystal clear: one is the government's power to maintain order. In other words, anyone violating the limits of the law will be stopped. The other thing concerns the point I have already mentioned, that as soon as parliament resumes work all the democratic legislation--such as that relating to demonstrations, assemblies, freedom of expression and the press--is rapidly passed by parliament. How long do we have until the election? By that time I hope all conditions will have been met satisfactorily, unless, of course, we have a situation of disorder even after all the liberalization we have granted. In that event, what are we to understand by this situation? Now if we have people violating the law despite the lawful freedoms passed by parliament, what are we to understand by this? You can easily judge for yourselves what the meaning of this state of affairs would be.

[Question] Your Majesty, you said that a cursory glance at the events of 19 August 1953 will show what we were then and what we are today. You also stressed what we are going to be. At another point in your remarks you mentioned that on 21 January 1962 there were 3 million young people going to school and today we have 10 million.

I believe these 10 million constitute the only capital Iran has for its future. These 10 million come into the labor market every day. In response to this there is a need for continuing the growth we have been enjoying in the past 15 years, both from the social and economic standpoints. Does the shahanshah think that the current political situation in the country is in keeping with this outlook?

[Answer] What do you mean by the political situation?

[Question] Reference was made to the riots that are taking place currently in the country. You referred to the great panic and anxiety. I am referring to the insecurity that some people may be feeling following these developments.

[Answer] You referred to 10 million people who are currently going to school. We envisaged setting up nuclear power stations several years ago. A month or two ago in Bonn heads of state of seven major industrial countries got together and came to the same conclusion, that they should develop as far as possible nuclear power stations in their own countries. We are already envisaging that our oil will run out, but by the time this happens we will have something else to replace it to keep the wheels of Iranian industry moving. What this means is providing jobs for these people. When we build dams, irrigation networks, electricity networks and factories--all these are intended to provide jobs for these people.

It is conceivable on the basis of certain specific economic calculations that Iran might become in the future a major world exporter of steel. That is to say, those countries which have to import the ore, coal and other raw materials needed to make steel might find it cheaper to buy their steel requirements from a country like Iran. We have laid the foundation for this already. We mentioned 19 August 1953--before this date there was not even a kilogram of steel produced in Iran. Even before the 21 January 1962 revolution we still did not have any steel production in our country. It was several years later that we started our steel industry in Esfahan. Now we have gas-operated steel mills. We have already started steel mills in Ahvaz and Bandar Abbas, and we may start the same industry in many other places as well. I hope our national maturity, the people's participation and the patriots' zeal will create an atmosphere in which we will have enough jobs not only for these 10 million people but for this country's 60 to 65 million population.

[Question] The daily increasing value of the dollar and the link between the oil and the dollar have led to the deterioration in the purchasing powers of OPEC countries. Having always been OPEC's guiding force and having directed its policies in critical times, what does the shahanshah advise now that OPEC experts have announced that the \$12.50 or \$13 per barrel price of oil has in effect now fallen to \$7.20?

[Answer] We are awaiting the November-December 1978 session of OPEC members who are also studying this situation: At this session we shall discuss the issue.

[Question] On the anniversary of the Iranian constitution the shahanshah announced that political groups outside the Rastakhiz Party may in the next free election have fair and [word indistinct] participation and nominate their candidates. Following this announcement, the foreign press has brought up the question of whether the shahanshah's remarks were tantamount to a green light for granting political parties legal status along with the Rastakhiz Party or allowing political groups to operate along the same lines as exist in Western democracies.

[Answer] When we talk about maximum political freedom and participation in elections, it means that nothing except the electoral law itself can prevent any individual from taking part.

In other words, they will have complete freedom within the law to engage in any activity. As I have said, in particular, those who want to participate must bear in mind the oath they will have to take once they enter the Majlis. Other than that we do not consider any limitations necessary.

[Question] There are certain small incidents or minor developments which could develop gradually into something quite big, providing an opportunity for Iran's enemies to exploit the situation. One of these developments concerns the Aryamehr University, which is, it seems, developing into a puzzle. The root cause of the problem is clear. On the one hand we see announcements calling for registration of candidates and on the other we see counter announcements by the establishment saying no one will be allowed to register, or words to that effect.

These days, when technical specialists are at a premium and can command large salaries and after a few year's work here can pack their bags and go and live abroad and enjoy a life of pleasure and leisure, the staff of the Aryamehr University--who, as far as I know, are not rebels or militants and who are working hard with dedication and belief in the existing regime--should not be disillusioned and disheartened and thus prevented from serving the country as they are capable of doing.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education argued that to prevent further atmospheric pollution and in the interest of decentralization, as far as possible, such organizations should not be set up in Tehran. The statement also says that if the teaching staff themselves are interested in running the university, they may go ahead at their own cost and with their own money. So the university staff say if it is a problem of decentralization and air pollution, how is it then that in the same statement all is forgotten. These are the specific issues for which I have failed to find specific answers. That is why I am seeking Your Majesty's kind answer to these issues.

[Answer] I do not have any specific answers either. There is a board of trustees and there is a law. The decision is made by them. What we have heard so far is that the university should devote resources to postgraduate studies. At tremendous cost a huge technical Aryamehr University is being built in Esfahan. No one had intended to break up the Tehran part of the university. Legally it is up to the university chancellor and the board to decide. Or perhaps the matter should be left to a self-appointed group to handle. These are matters for the board of trustees.

[Question] My question concerns certain groups of the opposition. This opposition, especially among the clergy, falls into two categories. To begin with, they were not in opposition, for they were mild individuals. For instance, an 80-year-old man residing in Com and involved in prayers had no interest in politics. However, the government--or the police, if you like--followed a policy which identified the two categories together and under one roof. Thus the two combined forces and therefore the government treated them accordingly, whereas in the past the government always tried to separate the two. This was so because, naturally, those who believe in the constitution are preferable to those who completely reject it, while both these groups are preferable to those who resort to arms and clubs. It appears, however, that the government is treating all three different categories as if they were identical in character. Could you please comment on this?

[Answer] Of course, it is difficult to identify a simple individual who objects to certain disorder, regardless of his motive. But sometimes mistakes do happen and in this particular instance the government did express its regret over the incident. You are absolutely right, the point is that individuals ought to have enough sense and presence of mind to recognize events and assess them correctly.

[Question] Because of the people's reverence for the institution of monarchy, they often expect the status of monarchy to be as close to the ideals they have imagined as possible. There are certain decisions attributed to the institution of monarchy. I do not know how true this is. They ask me about these decisions as a journalist, for example, but I have no knowledge of these matters. There were, for example, rumors circulating recently that the monarch had issued orders banning all forms of recommendations, including those from members of the royal family. There were even rumors about members of the family being banned from any participation in public and private institutions. This state of affairs has perhaps been a cause of discontent, misunderstanding and an unfavorable psychological factor.

[Answer] It is true, these orders have been issued.

[Question] In your message on the anniversary of the constitution you noted that the people's votes will be counted in the next election. You also stated that the election will provide an opportunity for the people to show how many of them support the ideal of a great civilization. It seems that the task of organizing various national groups aspiring to the objective of achieving a great civilization has been entrusted to the Rastakhiz Party. In the Shashanshah's view, is the party, in the present circumstances, able to do this job? What is your directive to the party and its leadership in this regard, particularly your to the various wings?

[Answer] I am waiting to see the activities of the wings. There are three wings, and presumably there are differences of views between them, otherwise there would not be three separate wings. We must wait and see how the differences between the wings in the Rastakhiz Party are resolved in the interest of the country and the great civilization.

[Question] In Your Majesty's view, who or what organizations are behind the incidents of the past few months? Do you believe that certain foreign governments, directly or through their local agents, have been involved in causing the incidents?

[Answer] Of course, one cannot answer this question. Suffice it to say, however, that the slogans issued will make it very easy for you to draw your own conclusions.

[Question] A number of observers and sociologists believe that the new atmosphere in the country should be regarded as a move toward rapid democratization in Iran. In Your Majesty's view, does the Iranian press appreciate its mission in the context of this new, open atmosphere?

[Answer] Well, as I have said, I have seen banner headlines on many occasions. If this is the mission of the press, then it is doing its job. If it is a question of describing the true nature of democracy, I am still waiting to see something about that appear in the press.

[Question] Your Majesty has often stated that we will achieve the maximum level of democracy and freedom. My question is this: Bearing in mind the present circumstances in the country, what stages do you envisage for achieving this goal?

[Answer] The laws will be enacted. After that it is a matter of national maturity and patriotism. A great deal is being said about everything, but I hear little about the duties of an Iranian toward his homeland. What must one do to protect the country? There must be certain criteria governing this. Look at the history of any nation. All nations have experience this situation. Some countries have had their own peculiar conditions from the geographical standpoint. Iran is one of the countries with its own peculiarities, so the people's national duties are accordingly heavier and more important.

I cannot give a specific date for us to achieve the maximum level of democracy, but we will pave the way for it in every respect. Beyond that it is up to the people themselves to show how fast they want to reach that target within the law in serving their country and these ideals.

[Question] My first question concerns the negotiations between NIOC and the consortium. I would like to know the reasons which have brought the negotiations to a halt.

[Answer] As far as I know, differences between the two sides are very small and insignificant, and the sides are approaching understanding.

[Question] My next question concerns the Camp David conference of the U.S., Egyptian and Israeli leaders.

[Answer] Anything that could lead to an honorable peace based on UN Resolution 242 is, of course, supported by us.

[Question] Certain aspects of the roots of corruption are known, and you have referred to them frequently. At the start of this press conference, you stated that some of the causes of the disturbances are due to certain aspects of discontent--for example, the episode relating to the judiciary which was brought up here by one of our friends concerning a rich influential individual who has committed various offenses which have been ignored for years. The shahanshah knows better than anyone else that such things lead to bottled-up public discontent. Those elements who are constantly lying in wait to damage Iran's independence and sovereignty exploit the situation. It appears that normal, ordinary methods to prevent and uproot these shortcomings are inadequate. Does Your Majesty envisage revolutionary methods, such as the administrative reform which has not been implemented yet?

[Answer] As you said, we have declared the principle of administrative reform, and you say this has not been implemented. You ask those responsible for implementing it about it and they will tell you it has been implemented. So, it seems some aspects of the reform have been implemented and some have not, because if it had been implemented fully, we would not have any problem.

As I said in another context, this is also a two-way street. One cannot say with certainty that the man sitting behind the desk is guilty and the one on the other side of the desk has a legitimate demand, for there are occasions when people want certain things done for them in contravention of the laws. Well, this sort of thing cannot be done. This is a two-way street and is a matter which involved national upbringing.

[Question] There were rumors when Your Majesty was in the north to the effect that you were not well. Obviously, people are deeply concerned. Would you please comment?

[Answer] At present, I must say I have never felt better. I was surprised by these ideas; these rumors are spreading across the border as well. This shows that there is a certain agency devoting its entire time with the aid of thousands, thinking up what to do next and what sort of rumors to spread, all in order to help them achieve their end. This is possibly along the same line.

[Question] When the enemy attacks he does so from a position of advantage compared to those who are responsible for defense, for the attacker knows which target or vulnerable point he wants to attack. The defenders obviously need adequate strength and unity. Like many other people in the country, I do not see this needed solidarity and unity.

For example, the establishment in charge itself has differences within it--something which might not be in the interest of the country now that the enemy is on the attack. What is Your Majesty's comment on this?

[Answer] What you say is, of course, correct. We hope those in charge will have enough sense of national responsibility in their jobs not to put their own personal consideration above other things. This is an elementary national duty.

OPPOSITION LEADER ATTACKS SHAH'S 'POLICY OF TERROR'

OW232349Y Hong Kong AFP in English 2322 GMT 23 Aug 78 OW

[Text] Tehran, Aug 23 (AFP)--Iranian opposition leader Karim Sanjabi today launched a strong attack against the shah and his regime, accusing Shah Reza Pahlavi of following a policy of terror, oppression, massacres, constant violation of the constitution, and empty promises. Mr Sanjabi, who leads the National Front, said in his allegations of massacre that they constitute a sort of genocide whose sole aim is to strengthen the despotic regime. The Iranian nation, he said, still persisted in its rejection of its resistance to and its revolt against the shah's policies.

Mr Sanjabi's lashing-out at the shah was made at his home where he talked to a group of journalists, most of them from overseas. He strongly criticized the governments liberalisation policy, noting that it was during this period, in towns small and large, that peaceful demonstrations have been brutally broken up, that men of religion have been beaten without pity, and thousands of other people sent to prison.

He accused the shah's regime of having transformed the constitution, over the 25 years since it came to power, into a dictatorship, an absolutist regime.

Mr Sanjabi said his National Front Party would stand in the elections due to be held in 1979 only provided that the freedom of the press and the freedom to form new parties was respected. He said he hoped for a reconciliation of the national forces (the Iranian opposition) but he said such a reunification could not extend to the communist party, Tudeh, unless it was genuinely independent--something we do not think it is, he said.

Mr Sanjabi suggested the shah's regime was now trying to profit by the fire in an Abadan cinema (in which more than 400 people died on Saturday) regardless of who was in fact responsible. This singularly resembles the Reichstag fire, he added.

The National Front leader forecast that a military coup was currently unlikely in Iran unless there was one prompted by intervention by an extra-Iranian power.

AFGHANISTAN

ARREST OF MINISTERS OF PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS ORDERED

LD231814Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 23 Aug 78 LD

[Announcement by Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan]

[Text] The Politburo held an extraordinary meeting under the chairmanship of Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the Central Committee, at 1100 today at People's House. The meeting continued until 1300 today.

The Politburo made (?a comprehensive study) of the conspiracy and abominable deeds of foreign and internal enemies with the participation of Abdol Qader, Shahpur and Ali Akbar. It strongly condemned the participation of Planning Minister Soltan Ali Keshtmand and Minister of Public Works Mohammad Rafi--which is proved by documentary evidence--in this treacherous conspiracy, and ordered their arrest.

The Politburo announces to all the noble people of Afghanistan and to progressive mankind that the victorious revolution of the people is daily gaining strength and being consolidated. The people of Afghanistan, with full confidence and deep feelings of patriotism, are defending the glorious and irreversible April revolution under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party.

GOVERNMENT ASSURES PROPERTY OWNERS OF SECURITY OF TENURE

LDT231446Y Kabul Domestic Service in Rushtu 1530 GMT 14 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Announcement by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan:

Anxiety has been created on the part of the owners of rented stores, houses and apartments due to the adverse and treacherous propaganda by the enemies of the Sower revolution alleging that the tenants will not return the stores, houses and apartments to their owners or pay them rent.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan hereby informs its citizens that private ownership is completely inviolable and that they can with complete confidence lease their stores, houses and apartments. The tenants are obliged to pay the agreed rent in accordance with the contract between the parties; the parties to the contract must observe the provisions thereof and act upon them accordingly.

BANGLADESH

JATIYA JANATA PARTY ASKS REVOCATION OF PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT

BK231632Y Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 16 Aug 78 p 1 BK

[Text] In a statement issued yesterday, the Jatiya Janata Party has called upon the Bangladesh Government to immediately revoke the agreement to bring the U.S. Peace Corps into the country. Otherwise, in order to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the people and nation, the party will be forced to take the issue to the public.

The statement said: The party notes with deep regret that the Bangladesh Government is fast falling into the grip of U.S. imperialism, the notorious enemy of the 1971 liberation war. The United States has concluded an unequal treaty for the purpose of bringing the Peace Corps into Bangladesh.

However, it is well known to free people and nations throughout the world that wherever the Peace Corps has gone, it has brought bloodshed, toppled the legal government through conspiracy, and started civil war by creating confusion among the people.

MALDIVES

AFP: GAYOOM APPOINTED PRESIDENT-ELECT

BK231515Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1459 GMT 23 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, Aug 23 (AFP)--The Republic of Maldives has appointed its permanent representative at the United Nations, Mohamed Musthafa Hussain, as ambassador to Sri Lanka concurrently with residence in New York, 14,700 kms (9,200 miles) away, it was announced here today.

Maldives, a nation of 1200 tiny islands only 640 kms (400 miles) from Sri Lanka, has had to accredit its ambassador in New York concurrently to Colombo because its only resident mission is at UN headquarters, diplomatic sources said.

Maldives, with a population of 144,000, closed its embassy in Colombo temporarily two years ago when it decided to open a mission at New York.

Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, 41, who will become the president of Maldives on November 11, the country's republic day, for a five year term, was the deputy ambassador in Colombo just before the mission was closed.

Mr Gayoom has been appointed president-elect following a national referendum held recently at which 92.9 per cent of the 58,000 men and women over 21 years eligible to vote cast their ballots in his favour.

Meanwhile, reports reaching here from the Maldivian capital of Male said that during the past few days more than 425 people who had been banished to other islands or who had been kept under house arrest for various offences, have been released before their sentences were completed.

INDIA

LOK SABHA PASSES CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL

BK230956Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The Lok Sabha today unanimously passed the comprehensive 45th constitution amendment bill amidst thunderous applause. The 49-clause bill, seeking to correct the distortions which came into the constitution during the emergency, was discussed by the house for several days.

The law minister, Mr Shanti Bhushan, who piloted the bill, described its passing as a historic occasion. At the final voting 355 members voted in favor of the bill and none opposed, while 2 members abstained. However, during the third reading members from different parties again expressed reservations in regard to certain clauses. These relate to preventive detention, referendum and the transfer of education to the state's list. A complaint was also voiced that the bill does not fulfill the election promises of the Janata Party.

Replying to the brief debate, Mr Shanti Bhushan allayed the member's fears on preventive detention. He thanked all parties for their cooperation in passing the measure. He was confident that the amendments will safeguard the rights of the people and help fulfill their aspirations.

The bill, which is renumbered as the 44th constitution amendment, provides for the first time for a national referendum to bring a fundamental change in the basic law of the country. The right to property will not be a fundamental right. However, it becomes a legal right, as no person can be deprived of his property except by a procedure established by law. The minorities would continue to have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

The bill now goes to the Rajya Sabha.

VAJPAYEE DISCUSSES REPATRIATION OF INDIANS FROM SRI LANKA

BK240924Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Aug 78 BK

[Text] India has impressed upon Sri Lanka that all Indians should not be repatriated at once, as it would create difficulties in their rehabilitation. This was stated by the external affairs minister in the Lok Sabha today.

Answering a question, Mr Vajpayee told the house that a team led by the Sri Lanka foreign secretary, Mr W.T. Jayasinghe, visited New Delhi last month and held talks on measures to expedite implementation of the 1964 Sirimavo-Shastri agreement. The talks were extremely useful in sorting out various issues which have delayed the implementation of the agreement.

VAJPAYEE TO VISIT SOVIET UNION 11 SEPTEMBER

BK240936Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, will visit the Soviet Union from the 11th of next month. He has been invited by the Soviet foreign minister. This was stated in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today. The house was informed that no precise date has been fixed for Mr Vajpayee's visit to Peking.

AGREEMENT ON MACHINE BUILDING PLANTS CONCLUDED WITH USSR

BK200208Y Bombay PTI in English 0138 GMT 20 Aug 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi Aug 20 (PTI)--India and the Soviet Union have agreed on working programs for further cooperation in machine building plants at Hardwar, Ranchi and Durgapur. The programme includes improvement of existing technology and the introduction of new technology. The agreement emerged from discussions teams of experts from India and the Soviet Union held in Delhi this week in pursuance of the protocol signed in Moscow on July 17 of this year.

Agreement on Pharmaceutical Processing

BK231314Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Aug 78 BK

[Text] India is going in for an agreement with the Soviet Union for bulk import of drugs which would be processed and formulated in the country and exported back to the Soviet Union and some other countries. A committee consisting of representatives of State Trading Corporation, Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation and Indian Drug and Pharmaceuticals Limited is being formed to give a concrete shape to the proposal.

PAKISTAN

HAQ HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE, NAMES NEW CABINET

BK231550Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Aug 78 BK

[Text] A new federal cabinet comprised of 24 civilian members was sworn in this afternoon in Rawalpindi. President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry administered the oath of office. The cabinet, which will be headed by the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, includes 21 federal ministers and 3 ministers of state. Mr Agha Shahi has been appointed adviser to the chief martial law administrator on foreign affairs. His rank will be equivalent to minister of state. The old cabinet, which was sworn in on 5 July, was dissolved this morning.

The names of ministers and their portfolios are:

Finance and Planning
Law and Parliamentary Affairs
Housing and Construction
Shipping, Ports and Export Promotion
Interior
Railways
Education and Culture
Communications
Attorney General

Food and Agriculture
Commerce
Labor and Manpower

Production

Water and Power
Provincial, Frontier and Kashmir Affairs
Religious and Minority Affairs
Local Bodies and Rural Development
Defense
Information and Broadcasting
Health, Social Welfare and Population
Planning
Science and Technology

Ghulam Ishaq Khan
A.K. Brohi
Fida Mohammad Khan
Mustafa Gokal
Mahmud A. Haroon
Mohammad Khan Junejo
Mohammad Ali Khan of Hoti
Mohyuddin Baluch
Sharifuddin Pirzada--who was not sworn in today because he is on a tour abroad
Khawaja Mohammad Safdar
Mian Zahid Sarfraz
Chaudhry Zahur Elahi [member of Pakistan Moslem League]
Prof Ghafoor Ahmed [secretary general of Pakistan National Alliance]
Chaudhry Rahmat Elahi
(Safiq Mohammad Khan)
Iftikhar Ahmed Ansari
Mohammad Zaman Khan Achakzai
Ali Ahmed Talpur
Mahmud Azam Farooqi
(Safiq Khan Khoto)
Mohammad Arshad Chaudhry

The ministers of state and their portfolios are:

Social Welfare Council
Youths and Students' Affairs
Export Promotion Bureau

Mahmud Ali
Javed Hashmi
Hamid D. Habib.

Later, addressing a crowded press conference, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that (?three) military officers from the outgoing cabinet were not included in the new cabinet at their own request. This is in line with his policy of gradually involving politicians in the country's administration and putting the country on the road to democracy as soon as possible.

He said high military officers of the dissolved cabinet will now be able to discharge their professional responsibilities in a better way. This also reflects the armed forces' desire not to hold on to power and will dispel doubts about the efforts of the chief martial law administrator and his subordinates to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people.

The chief martial law administrator declared that the new cabinet's ministers, most of whom were nominated by the Pakistan National Alliance, will have full powers regarding the affairs of their respective ministries. However, they will have to implement decisions made by the cabinet from time to time.

He said the new cabinet has three basic objectives: to rigorously pursue efforts for the establishment of an Islamic state, to create an atmosphere conducive to the holding of elections to install a political government, and to put the country's economy on the path of progress.

He stressed that unless the country's economy is improved, there will be no stability. This does not require years, but it will be a heavy task to achieve it in a given period of time. The foundation, however, has already been laid for this.

Reaffirming the present government's pledge to hold elections, the chief martial law administrator said that the year 1979 can be called the year of elections. The general elections will be held during 1979. Efforts will be made to hold general elections by October next year, but the final decision on the date will be made by the cabinet.

The chief martial law administrator said the armed forces took over the administration of the country with the aim of transferring power to the elected representatives of the people, and the fact is that we are fully working toward this objective.

He declared that restricted indoor political activities will be allowed starting tomorrow and he will issue a martial law order to this effect tomorrow. Under the relaxation of the ban on political activities, political leaders will be allowed to hold press conferences, issue political statements and hold executive committee sessions indoors, but they will not be allowed to use loudspeakers for these purposes. The ban on public meetings and processions will continue in effect.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the relaxation of the ban on political activities is a step forward toward the goal of democracy.

The chief martial law administrator said that it was a happy coincidence that Pakistan came into being in the holy month of Ramadhan and the present civilian cabinet has been constituted in the same holy month.

He said he was not only optimistic but certain that with the blessings of Almighty God and the fortune of this holy month, the new cabinet will be able to achieve its objectives.

On holding the local body elections, he said the new cabinet will decide on this.

Answering another question, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that under the constitution, President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry will continue in his post until the election of a new president. He said there is no truth in reports appearing in a section of the press that the president has resigned.

French Nuclear Deal

BK231734Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Aug 78 BK

[Excerpts] About the position of the military council, Ziaul Haq said [at today's press conference] it continued to exist. The council reviewed national affairs but the ultimate decisions were taken by the cabinet.

As to the formation of provincial cabinets, he said these will be formed in the light of the experiments at the federal level.

Asked about the deal with France for a [nuclear fuel] reprocessing plant, the CMLA [chief martial law administrator] confirmed that a reply to his communication had been received from the French president. President Giscard d'Estaing had called for negotiations to incorporate certain alterations in the plant. No reply had yet been sent to him, but Pakistan would press France to abide by the deal. He expressed Pakistan's determination not to lag behind in the nuclear field and he was sure that Pakistan would ultimately be able to acquire nuclear technology. He said Pakistan had given assurances time and again at international forums that it was against nuclear proliferation and wanted that the Indian Ocean be declared a nuclear weapon-free zone.

DELHI: MRS BHUTTO'S DETENTION ORDER EXTENDED

BK221630Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The chief counsel for the former Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has said he is satisfied with the way the Supreme Court is hearing the appeal. Mr Bhutto was sentenced to death for plotting a political murder in 1974.

Meanwhile, the detention of the wife of Mr Bhutto has been extended for another 3 months. Begum Nusrat Bhutto has been under house arrest since March last.

BRIEFS

INDIAN URANIUM DEPOSITS--The prime minister told the lower house of Parliament 16 August that uranium deposits have been located at five places in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. He said that a detailed evaluation is being carried out. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Aug 78 BK]

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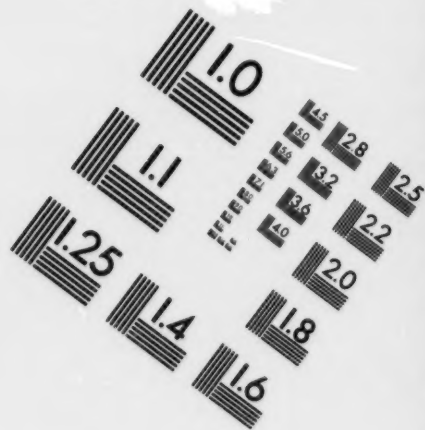
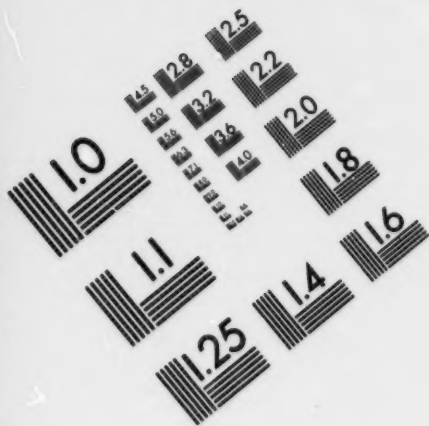
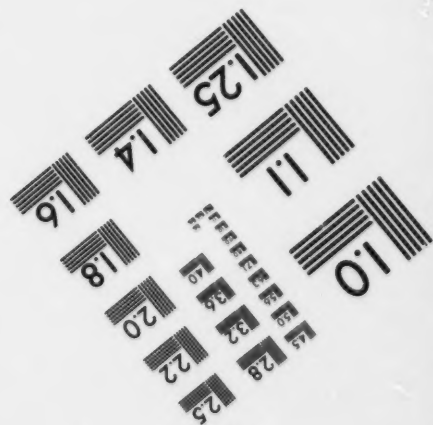
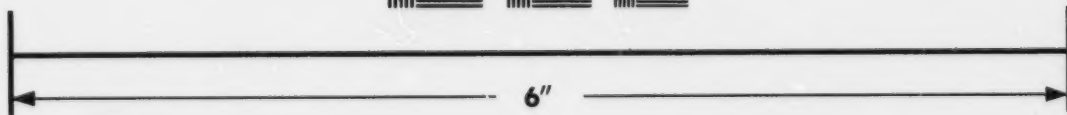
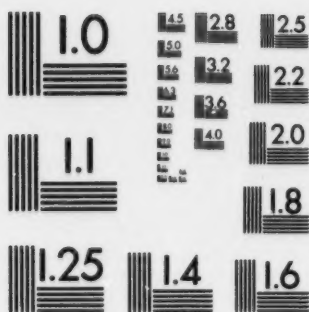


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